

BAY AREA REPORTER

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(Photo: Rink)

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City, Cops Cough Up \$53.5K to Lindberg

'Thumbs-Up' Case Settled Out of Court

by Tim Taylor

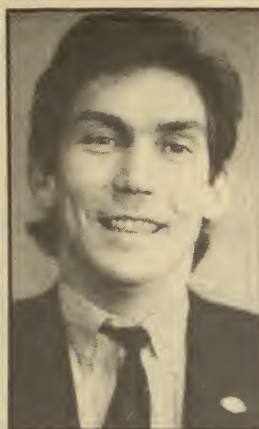
The city of San Francisco has approved an out-of-court settlement to pay Bruce Lindberg \$53,500 in compensatory damages for the beating and emotional trauma he suffered after a nightmarish kidnapping by two rogue city cops. For Lindberg, the cash settlement is only one part of a long story of troubles that have haunted him since the assault in August, 1984.

Lindberg was on a Mission Street bus after a night spent at various South of Market watering holes when he spied officers Nial Philpott and Scott Quinn out of the rear window of the bus. An avid uniform enthusiast, Lindberg flashed a brotherly "thumbs up" sign to the men in blue who represented a lifestyle he held in awe.

The officers became enraged, misinterpreting the friendly message for an obscenity. They forced the bus to stop and ejected

Lindberg, taking him to an isolated Muni repair yard on Indiana and 23rd Streets. There, Philpott and Quinn beat Lindberg senseless with their fists and batons causing him severe injuries. He was left in a heap on the ground, but was able finally to secure the help of a Muni guard who summoned police and medical attention.

According to attorney Michael Hall, the experience left the shattered Lindberg "in a vulnerable psychological position."



'I'm glad that these officers are no longer part of the force and that the city recognized its responsibility.'

—Michael Hall

(B.A.R. Photo: Brian Jones)

The District Attorney's office prosecuted the two officers for official misconduct and felony kidnapping, securing convictions that sent Philpott and Quinn to jail. Philpott was sentenced to eight months in the county jail and Quinn to one year. Both are currently serving an additional five years of probation.

A subsequent civil proceeding brought by Hall on Lindberg's behalf resulted in the \$53,500 in damages. Philpott and Quinn will each pay \$5,000 of the settlement, with the rest coming from city coffers.

"I'm glad that these officers are no longer part of the force and that the city recognized its responsibility," said Hall. The attorney has represented several claims against the city alleging anti-gay violence by police officials. He observed that it was not unusual for the officers he was charging to have other complaints of abusive actions in their personnel records. He added that "there are still a few bad apples and slowly they are being drummed out. These two (Philpott and Quinn) were the baddest of the bad."



Bruce Lindberg.

(Photo: Rink)

This Year's Parade Will Be A Three-Ring Circus

by Jay Newquist

This year the parade borrowed a theme from Ringling Brothers — three stages erected in the Civic Center area.

"We wanted to resolve the conflict between the people who wanted to hear the speakers at the end of the parade and the people who wanted to celebrate and have a party," Schulenburg said.

The three stages are for:

- A tea dance at City Hall hosted by various DJs;
- A folk/song rock event in a grassy area near the Civic Center;
- A series of guest speakers at the corner of Polk and McAllister.

Schulenburg said the parade organizers had "tripled" the number of speakers and entertainers by the use of three stages. She expected the various post-parade events to last more than six and a half hours.

The two principal speakers on the same stage will be mayoral candidates John Molinari and Art Agnos. They will put their campaigns on hold to speak in a non-partisan vein about gay pride.

Other speakers are Donna Hitchens, an attorney involved in custody issues; Thomas Carroll of Dignity, who will discuss the pope's upcoming visit; Randy Schell of CUAV; Pat Norman, who will talk about the National March on Washington; and Cleve Jones of the Names Project, among others.

The entertainment roster is headed by: Wry Crips, a disabled women's comedy group; the Nancy Vogl Band; Deena Jones; Lucy Blue Tremblay; and many more.

Schulenburg said 25 people had worked steadily for the past year to plan the 1987 parade, which cost \$200,000 that was

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raised privately and through the city's Hotel tax fund.

The staff will leap to 100 as June 28 fast approaches, but more than 500 volunteers are still needed to provide security and special needs for the marchers. To volunteer, call 647-FREE.

Sup. Harry Britt and attorney Mary Dunlap will lead the parade when it starts at 11 a.m. at Market and Spear St.

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Lover Wants New Inquiry From OCC

Also Seeks \$30K In Damages

by Charles Linebarger

Bill Hudson's lover, Gary Busby, collapsed and died at the San Francisco Hall of Justice last Nov. 26 after reporting a gay bashing to police. Hudson and Busby were there to complain that the police had refused to make any arrests a week earlier when their neighbor attacked them in their apartment with a pipe.

Since Busby's death, one policeman has resigned, the District Attorney and the Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC) have opened investigations, and Hudson has asked the city for \$30,000 in damages on behalf of Busby. Hudson believes the city is involved in a cover-up.

"(We) were brutally attacked by a neighbor who barged into our home without reason or provocation," said Hudson, "and with a lethal club began attacking Mr. Thompson (a friend of Hudson's and Busby's), putting a gash on his head. In an effort to restrain the assailant, Gary Busby and I became victims of the club Oscar Rojas was swinging at us. . . . The assailant was calling us all faggots, queers, and threatened to kill us. . . ."

All three men were allegedly beaten by Rojas, according to Hudson, with Busby getting slammed on the side of the head. Hudson said police refused to make a report on the incident or to make an arrest. Instead, according to Hudson, they "were arrogant and anti-gay. They ordered us, the victims, back to our apartments or they would take us all into jail. . . ."

After the attack Busby went to bed with severe headaches and Hudson began going through the system to get charges filed against Rojas. A week later, they were called into the Hall of Justice to make statements and file a complaint.

"Mr. Busby had to force himself to be able to attend the 3 p.m. appointment," said Hudson.

"When he was called into the inspector's office, he told the inspector that he was feeling very sick and nervous, and his hands were shaking badly. Upon completion of his testimony, Mr. Busby and Mr. Thompson went outside Room 411 to smoke a cigarette. Gary Busby, my lover, collapsed and died in the hallway at the Hall of Justice."

Boyd Stevens, San Francisco's coroner, issued a report denying that Busby's death had anything to do with the gay bashing he had suffered. According to the coroner, Busby died of seizures related to "the jump from a window that occurred some years earlier." Hudson, however, said that Busby had never suffered seizures before and has demanded an independent autopsy to determine the cause of his lover's death.

D.A. INVESTIGATES

Hudson, with the help of Kevin Roe, a Community United Against Violence (CUAV) client advocate, was able to get District Attorney Arlo Smith to investigate the incident. As a result, Rojas was charged with three misdemeanor batteries. Rojas was arrested and subsequently released on bail. His trial begins

(Continued on page 29)



"I'm ready for my closeup, Mr. DeMille." Gloria Swanson, aka Norma Desmond, uttered this line in *Sunset Boulevard* 37 years ago. Norma's back, in the person of David C. Jones (above), winner of the 15th annual Closet Ball on Saturday, June 20. David didn't know that he won that night because of a mixup in the announcement of the winner. But he knows now. Way to go, David, your creator, Danny Espinosa, and your sponsor, Superstar Video.

(Photo: Robert Pruzan)

PG&E Sets Up AIDS Hotline For Employees

Anonymous Help For PWAs

by Jay Newquist

In one of the more compassionate policies of any large corporation in San Francisco, PG&E has set up an AIDS Hotline so its employees who have AIDS can phone anonymously to receive information about AIDS-related services.

"It isn't the easiest thing in the world to tell someone you have AIDS, especially when it's your employer," said George Kronenberger, human resources supervisor in the personnel department at PG&E.

"The AIDS Hotline is totally confidential, you don't have to say who you are or face someone behind a desk. You don't have to fight the system to get results."

Kronenberger said there have been 10 employees with AIDS at PG&E who have used the hotline since last December. They are advised and supported, among others,

by six volunteers at PG&E. Some are gay; some are straight.

The callers are provided vital information about employee benefits, equal employment opportunities and employee financial assistance. The AIDS Hotline spares them the possible embarrassment of facing a bureaucrat directly. The program also offers emotional and technical support.

"There is an enormous amount of AIDS-related paperwork about short-term and long-term liability," Kronenberger said. "These people don't have to identify themselves directly over the phone, but all of them have felt so comfortable that they said who they were."

All the callers, however, retain the option to inquire about AIDS-related benefits and remain anonymous over the telephone.

PG&E has supported a policy since January, 1986, that AIDS, where it occurs among the company's 28,000 employees, must be treated like any other life-threatening disease, Kronenberger said.

The PG&E AIDS Hotline number is 973-AIDS.

The caller is asked to leave a recorded message in the form of a phone number to call. A volunteer calls back to trigger the start of services available to any PG&E employee that has AIDS.

The volunteer becomes an ombudsman for the PWA and leads the employee through channels to achieve the full complement of services.

"It often happens that the caller doesn't know someone who is good dealing with all the paperwork that's needed," Kronenberger said. "It's nice to have someone who can deal with that effectively."

The AIDS Hotline tears down the facade and cuts through the red tape typically encountered when one deals with the bureaucracy. Kronenberger said PG&E is prepared for the incidence of AIDS to increase among its employees, but he provided no estimate.

"We just don't know who's not calling us," he said.

Dr. Joe Mattox, the administrator of PG&E's Employee Assistance Program, said the AIDS Hotline was simply one link in a matrix of activities to help PWAs and educate other

(Continued on page 33)

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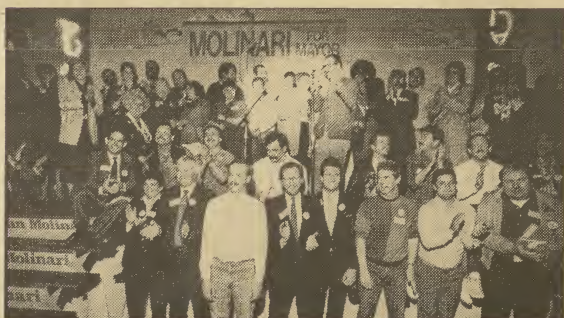
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Deputy Mayor Opposed to Placement of Milk Mural

by Charles Linebarger

Plans to create a memorial mural to slain supervisor Harvey Milk are being threatened. B.A.R. has learned that city crime commissioner and deputy mayor Rotea Gilford, whose home overlooks the wall planned for the mural, has objected to the proposed location of it. A wall of the Harvey Milk Recreation Center facing Duboce Park is the planned location, and Gilford has asked for a different location because the mural, which will be 50 feet wide, would be 65 feet from his house.

"It's not that I'm opposed to the mural," Gilford said in a recent telephone interview. "It's just that I'm opposed to where they want to put it. It should be put on the front of the building. The way it is now, the size of the building's wall is de-emphasized, and to put a mural there would be overwhelming to me."

Gilford raised his points at a June 4 meeting of the Parks and Planning Commission. His objections were enough to get the motion to okay the mural tabled.

According to mural artist Jo-

hanna Poethig, the park commissioners have checked the site near Gilford's house. With the next commission meeting set for Thursday, July 2, at 9 a.m. at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, Poethig emphasized the need for support for the mural.

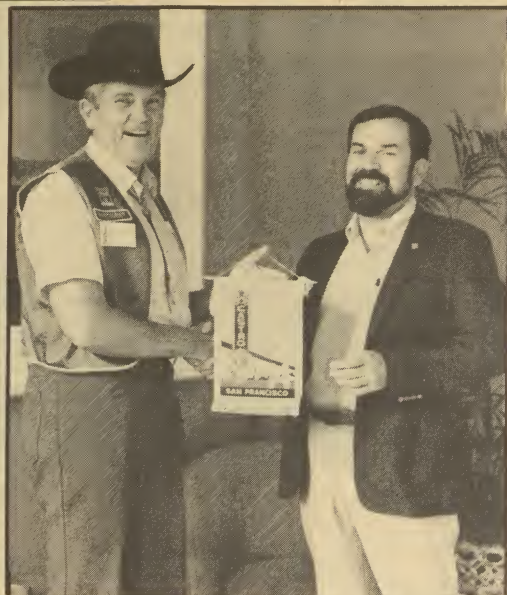
"People who want this mural on a prominent wall befitting a memorial to Harvey Milk should come to the meeting," Poethig said. "I'm going to need all the support I can get. I really want this thing painted on the side of the building facing Duboce Park

because it's a much more prominent place and many more people will be able to see it from the park than from, say, the street in front of the building."

According to Milk's former lover, Scott Smith, the Harvey Milk Recreation Center could use Poethig's mural.

"The building now is institutional green, and it faces that pretty little park. Her mural has the children in it. You know there is a little, tiny playground there. It (the mural) is a scene of recreation with Harvey included."

Poethig's design for the Harvey Milk mural has a huge, colorful dahlia in the background with Harvey Milk sitting in the foreground. He is flanked by a clown and young people playing in the Duboce Park playground.



Gardner Pond, president of the Castro Lions (left) and Mike Reedy of the Coming Home Hospice.

(Photo: Steve Savage)



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for responding so intelligently and humanely to the AIDS epidemic, for making safe sex a way of life in our city, and for showing the rest of the world that we can stop the spread of AIDS.



Photo: Rob Eichberg

The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.



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I ♥ the Lions

Castro Lions Work For Community And Have Fun Serving

by Jay Newquist

Mention The Lions Club and usually you conjure up the straight image of rock-ribbed Calvinists with station wagons. But San Francisco's gay chapter has impressed the directors of the international service organization with its enthusiasm and ability to have fun while serving the community.

They're the Castro Lions Club, a group of 59 gay men and lesbian women who were cited last month for their "humanitarian services" and high ideals by the global association of Lions Clubs.

We've always been very warmly received by the Lions. We were a bit surprised," said Gardner Pond, president of the Castro Lions. "We've been able to get beyond the fact we're gay. It really doesn't matter to them."

The Castro Lions was formed in 1985 to serve the local gay and lesbian community, and last year it made a commitment of at least \$10,000 toward the development and operation of Coming Home Hospice.

The club has held many fundraising events, such as raffles and auctions, and it applied for matching grants from Levi Strauss and Bank of America. Thus far the Lions have contributed more than \$20,000 to the hospice.

Tapped for funding of \$10,000 this year is the AIDS Emergency Fund as a special club project. Last month the club had already met half its goal by sponsoring a Groundhog Day Party and two garage sales.

More than 25 Castro Lions and friends trooped out early May 24 to sell commemorative Bridge-walk tickets during the recent 50th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. They raised \$2000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Pond said the Castro Lions shared the first priority of the International Lions — providing vision care, including guide dogs for the blind and eyeglasses to all those who can't otherwise afford them, especially to children of undocumented aliens.

Other priorities are diabetic testing and drug awareness. Unique to the San Francisco group is support of AIDS-related services. "AIDS is such an overriding crisis in our community, it's really the most important thing for us," Pond said.

Pond added that the Castro Lions were trying to acquaint the larger overwhelmingly straight Lions membership with the facts about AIDS.

"For instance, they don't really know what a hospice is and they don't understand what an international problem AIDS is," he said.

The hope is that the Castro Lions will influence the international membership to take an active part in fund-raising to combat AIDS and to lighten the burden of people with AIDS and ARC.

Other good works on the local level include a special Christmas Day dinner the Castro Lions throw for the Larkin Street Youth Center and outings to Marine World and Great America for the teens.

Who joins the Castro Lions?

Pond said members were men and women of all ages: lawyers, realtors, insurance salesmen, even two chiropractors. The Castro Lions was one of the first clubs to invite a woman to join when it made Cynthia Neff a Lion in May.

Membership in the Castro

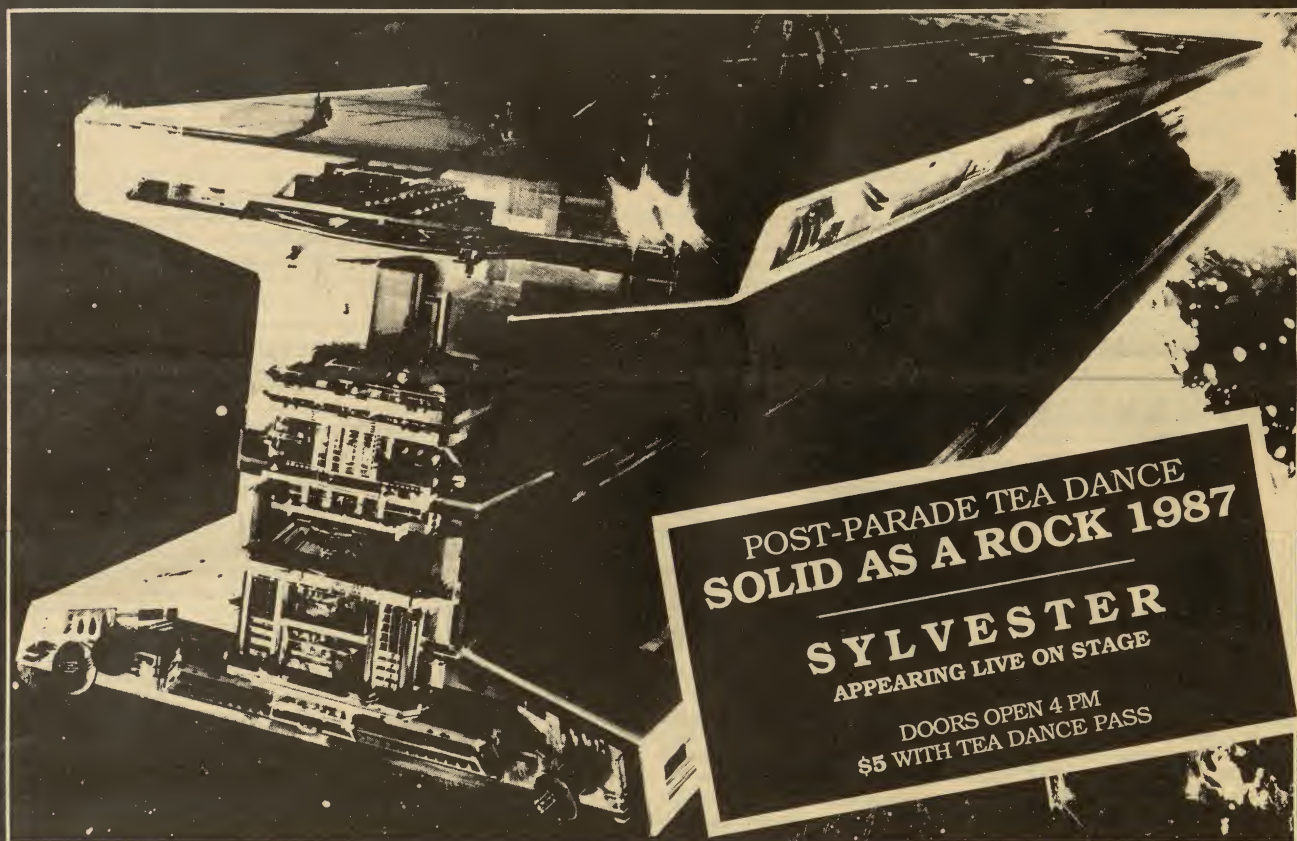
(Continued on page 27)

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

PRIDE 1987

We Are a Community. . .

As lesbian women and gay men we have much to celebrate this week. We honor the 18th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion this last Sunday in June. We commemorate all our achievements in those nearly two decades of struggle. We recognize the vast diversity of our many communities united in one common set of purposes. We display our love for each other, especially in this era of suffering with and fighting against one of the worst epidemics to strike any community.

Through it all our rainbow flag flies, symbolizing our differentness, our variety, our unity, and our love of celebration. With our colors, we proudly flash our insistent claim that despite all hardship or setback, we will prevail. Once again we will march up Market Street, our numbers greater this year than last, just as they were greater last year than the year before.

Not only are our numbers greater, our voices are louder — and more determined. In a sense we are still fighting the Battle of Stonewall, for we are still a small minority taking a big chance. Whatever the future holds, we will meet it with courage and love just as those drag queens in New York City back in 1969 banded together and fought back for three days against forces much greater than they were.

And they won. They took the risk together and won.

Nobody can say how our challenge to our society will pay off. But part of that payoff comes in just picking up the challenge. Despite struggles ahead there is no reason not to be confident of our gay future.

Proud. . .

Since last year's parade, we have weathered some storms, fought some fights and seen some triumphs. Pride is not something you can have someone hand to you. No matter how deserving you may be, it will never arrive if you wait for it. Pride has to be brashly taken, proclaimed, won.

We saw over 3,500 lesbian and gay athletes show their pride last summer in Gay Games II. They gave their personal bests not just for their own reward but to help show the world who gay and lesbian people are and could be. And what we showed the world and each other was a picture of health, strength, and support. We redefined competition in favor of "friendly competition," emphasis on friendly.

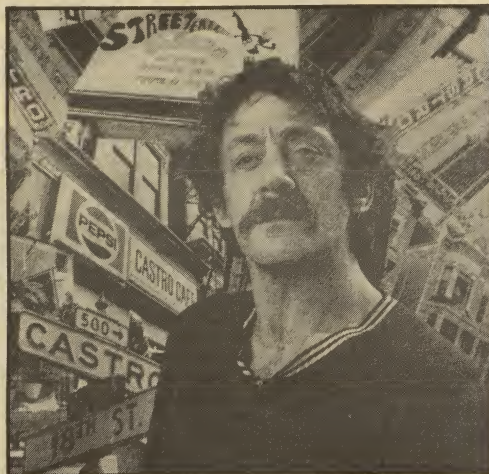
The medals won in Gay Games II meant more than just doing the best time or the highest score. They were a visible sign of a whole community's accomplishment.

This year we also acknowledge the ten-year anniversaries of a number of milestones in gay and lesbian history. It has been years since Harvey Milk forever altered San Francisco politics by capturing a seat on the city's Board of Supervisors. Ten years ago, the Lesbian Rights Project was begun and is now a major public interest law firm in civil rights litigation for lesbians and for gay men.

And ten years ago, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band made its debut on the streets of San Francisco and has been gayly making music ever since. They began the lesbian and gay musical revolution that has since swept across the U.S.



(Photo: Steve Savage)



(Photo: Rink)

Strong. . .

We almost did it this year. We almost elected one of our own community to the United States House of Representatives. We came close to sending Sup. Harry Britt to Washington as the first openly gay person ever elected to Congress. It would have been fitting for this city, which is so often looked to as a leader in the gay movement, the edge of the frontier, to have accomplished that.

Well, maybe next time. Even though Harry didn't go to Washington, it can't be said that he or we lost in that election. In fact, we came out winners. Gay clout moved up a few notches in that election. We set a new high water mark for the reach of lesbian and gay politics.

Now we find the gay and lesbian vote hotly sought after not only in local elections but even for national office as well. City campaigns, from mayoral candidates to ballot proposition issues, can't overlook the gay vote. All campaign for our support; none can take us for granted. Even presidential contenders find that a stop in San Francisco must include contact with the gay community. Few are willing to ignore us.

We now stand more integrated into the politics of this city, state and nation than anyone would have dreamed of ten years or 18 years ago. Despite the crudity and bigotry of our critics, who want to presume they speak for all Americans, we are part of the life of this society whether they like it or not.

The hate-mongers can make their noises but given a chance, Americans seem to be tolerant, fair-minded, and open to learning who we really are. We beat the bigots in 1978 by defeating the infamous Briggs Initiative that would have banned lesbian and gay teachers. And we beat the bigots in 1986 when California voters trounced the LaRouche Initiative on quarantine.

If you can judge by the number of cover stories in Newsweek, we are now in the center of this society, no longer invisible and no longer silent.

United.

We are black and white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American. We are men and women, rich, poor, working class, middle class. We are Democrats, Republicans, socialists, conservatives. We are religious, churchgoers and protesters of churches. We live in fancy condos and we are homeless. We are young, middle aged, old and ageless. We are, however, all gay and lesbian people and we unite in our purpose: to achieve justice.

Sup. Harry Britt's campaign for Congress showed us not only how far we could reach politically, but taught us the value of unity.

It is especially heartening to see our community moving to overcome its most serious division — between men and women. Both sides of our gay equation seemed to have realized that we have more in common than divides us. We need each other for either of us to succeed. Most important, we're letting ourselves like each other's company.

Our future has its uncertainties. But one lesson from our past is that taking risks has benefited each of us individually and our community collectively. We'll continue to take risks and meet challenges. We'll continue to take care of each other, especially those of us too ill to care for ourselves. We'll continue to answer our opponents. Sometimes we'll lose, but many times we'll win.

These may not be the happiest and brightest days in our history, but we will prevail. And we'll always find, even in tragedy, many reasons to be Proud as well as the Strength to show that Pride.

Ray O'Loughlin

Gay Awareness at KQED

★ I have been employed by KQED since Nov. 1985. During that time as a copy editor for San Francisco Focus magazine, I have enjoyed its accepting and supportive environment of my lesbian lifestyle. Never before in my 20 years in the work force have I been able to be so open about my personal life or bring my lover to company functions. At Focus and KQED, she is welcomed.

I am not the only KQED employee who is comfortable about her private life at the office. There were so many same-sex couples dancing at the company's 1986 Christmas party that I thought I had wandered into Peg's or Amelia's. That's because, contrary to the notion that KQED is homophobic, many gays and lesbians comprise the KQED and Focus staffs. In addition, gay writers, artists, photographers, producers, directors, performers, and technicians are often hired as contributors on a freelance basis. They couldn't do without us nor do they desire to.

I am proud of the diverse quality programming KQED consistently offers the Bay Area, especially its gay programming. Your May 28 issue devotes most of page 37 to special programming that KQED-FM 88.5 and KQED-TV Channel 9 have planned in honor of Gay Pride Week, including a radio portrait of gay troubadours Romanovsky and Phillips, a show on the Coming Home Hospice, and the broadcasts of *Waiting for the Moon* and *Not All Parents Are Straight*. The Academy Award-winning *The Times of Harvey Milk* and Chuck Solomon's *Coming of Age* will be repeated this month, and on June 8 KQED will be the only station to broadcast the Aid & Comfort benefit live.

Gay awareness at KQED doesn't end there. In November 1986, Focus published an in-depth, award-winning interview with Lyndon LaRouche by Ken Kelley, accompanied by sidebars that shattered the man's "facts" and made hay of his philosophies. And our March '87 cover story on gay power by Randy Shilts was the first report ever published, outside of the homosexual press, about the new gay and lesbian leadership in San Francisco. But of course you know about that; several of your staff members graced the cover.

Monica Levin
San Francisco

Clinical Trials Are Necessary

★ At the risk of again being called "arrogant" in regard to ribavirin use, there have been some new developments that should be brought to the attention of those who may still be taking this non-approved drug.

During the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington, Dr. Frank Young, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, revealed what many of us suspected, that the sponsoring company (ICN) had not randomized their test subjects properly in the study reported several months ago. Those receiving placebos were considerably sicker at the time of entry into the study than those receiving the 800mg dose of ribavirin, thus skewing the results to make it appear that the drug was useful in the 800mg group. Comparison of apples and oranges is not what research is about, and the question of utility of ribavirin is even more questionable than before the study. The implication is that the company intentionally produced a faulty study for their own commercial purposes.

Also, a clinical pharmacology study has now been reported from Cornell Medical Center on ribavirin administered either IV or orally to volunteer gay men with lymphadenopathy but normal organ function. Peak plasma levels were reached 1 to 2 hours after ingestion, but the drug persisted in the plasma for more than 48 hours with a slow fall during that time, about half of it being absorbed. The drug concentrates in red blood cells and thus is not available in large part for therapeutic activity against virus. Because of the slow rate of elimination of the drug, the authors believe the dosing interval should be increased to 12 to 24 hours to prevent drug accumulation. Approximately one-third was eliminated in the urine unchanged. It is possible that those with compromised kidney function may be more prone to toxicity than those with normal kidneys. Significant fatigue, headache, and nausea were reported by volunteers receiving a single high dose, the symptoms lasting for 2 to 3 weeks.

Additional well-designed and well-executed clinical trials are necessary before the role of ribavirin in AIDS/ARC, if there is one, can be defined.

W. L. Warner, M.D.
San Rafael

W. C. Fields Was Right

★ I am outraged, to say the least, at the audacity of these free spending television ministers who deceitfully prey on the confused, the gullible, the frightened and the lonely. Most of these ministers are nothing but smooth, tricky, con artists. They are

experts at getting you to part with your hard-earned dollars out of guilt and fear.

The biggest deceitful con of this century was the Oral Roberts "do or die" deception, and all in the name of God yet. God must be as weary of these Bible Bangers as I am.

I would rather give my money to a religious organization in my own home town where I can see it in action, like, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving shelter to the homeless and visiting the sick. Now that's what true religion should be all about.

These television hustlers spend millions of donated dollars on lavish mansions, private jets, expensive cars and fat personal bank accounts that would stagger the imagination of most people, and all in the name of God, and of course, greed.

W. C. Fields was right when he said, "A sucker is born every minute."

James Stuart
San Francisco

PAWS for PWAs

★ People with AIDS face some difficult ordeals, but one of the worst for those with beloved pets is facing the prospect of losing them when health or finances no longer permit adequate care. Even when they can be kept, worrying about their ultimate placement and welfare is an awful burden to the PWA.

"Paws for PWAs" (Project of S.F. AIDS Foundation) provides pet food, supplies, home care, veterinary treatment, animal visitation, temporary foster homes while owners are incapacitated, and finally, adoption (preferably "godparents," ready in advance to take the animal). We desperately need foster and adoptive homes for the dogs, cats, birds, etc. of AIDS/ARC patients.

If you can give a home, even temporarily, to a loving pet that has lost his daddy, please call 552-2925. And, of course, we can always use money and volunteers. Thank you.

Name withheld upon request.

CUAV Benefit

★ On Saturday, June 27th, CUAV will be holding a fundraiser at the Bear on Castro Street. The hours will be from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$5 for all the beer you can drink and lots of food.

This is the first time I have ever thrown a fundraiser and I cannot believe all of the support this community has given. The leather community has organized itself to sponsor the event. There will be many, many titleholders including Thomas Karasch, International Mr. Leather 1987; Judy Talling, Intl. Ms. Leather 1987; Michael Rousse, Mr. Mid Atlantic Leather; and Ken Gordon, Seattle Mr. Leather.

We are also expecting a great turnout from members of the SFPD—Mission Station and Police/Community Relations. The Office of the District Attorney—Victim/Witness Assistance Program will be sending members. Rumor has it that there will be members of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council as well as other City Hall personalities. I want to thank Mr. Marcus for his support as well as Wayne Friday. Vern Stewart has been absolutely wonderful in getting the leather community to help with this event.

Special thanks to Le Piano Zinc and Le Domino for contributing dinner for two which will be auctioned off during the benefit. Many, many Castro Street merchants are contributing food. I thank all of you who have supported this cause. I invite all of your readers to attend this event. What a great way to start the Parade Weekend. Come early—it's bound to be crowded. And, my continued thanks and appreciation for all of the support the B.A.R. has given CUAV over the years. We couldn't have done it without you.

Randy Schell
Senior Client Advocate
CUAV, San Francisco

Get Some Leather, Mike

★ It's great Mike Hippler escaped so easily to find a motorcycle is not the place to get a tan. Helmets are a matter of controversy, while riding, because they can cut off hearing and lines of sight. But for the many new riders now on the streets it should be pointed out that leather is not just a South of Market lure, but a necessity in case of accident, and that Reeboks are no substitute for boots when you have to come to a skidding stop. Mike is so attractive and intelligent we should save him at all cost, so let him ride in leathers and change into sports clothes at work.

Ron Johnson, Road Captain
Rainbow M/C, San Francisco



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LEADERS

Dirty Pool

★ Journalism should be at best, an unbiased reporting of events based on factual information. Sports reporting should compliment winners and losers alike, detailing the games, important plays, and individual achievements.

As a member of the San Francisco Pool Association for over six years I have been involved in all aspects of the league. (Former vice-president, West Coast Challenge Championship team member twice, City Championship team member three times, Top 16 member numerous times.) I have read every article the B.A.R. has published during that time. It is the first page I turn to when reading your paper.

Gene Miller was outstanding in his coverage. His writing style, wit, and unbiased reporting made the articles a joy to read.

Lauren Ward has had a few moments of the above, but her vindictive personality gets in the way of good journalism. I bring up three articles in particular.

• Last season's West Coast Challenge coverage:

Lauren's team, The DeLuxe D.U.C.K.S., won. The article was 90 percent about the D.U.C.K.S. The other 10 percent mentioned Colin Bradley's fantastic comeback. Colin's performance was really the highlight of a weekend of pool. Everyone there can tell you the energy and excitement it created. Why was it downplayed with a minor mention? Simple, Lauren and Colin do not get along.

• This season's Top-16 tournament (Top four win a trip to West Coast Challenge):

Walter Moreira wins this prestigious tournament for the second time. He gets a few paragraphs. Rick Mariani qualifies for the top four by defeating E.Z., the number one seed, by a score of 3-0. He gets one sentence. Colin Bradley qualifies again as he is the current champ. He gets one paragraph. No frills or details of the matches for these three qualifiers. The other qualifier was Lauren Ward. Seventy-five percent of the article was about herself and her amazing comeback. She failed to mention that Colin and Rick both left the tournament early after they were guaranteed a berth, forfeiting their scheduled games against Lauren. Some amazing comeback! She did not have to play two higher seeded opponents. Why does she write about herself? Simple, she doesn't like Colin (already mentioned) nor Rick, and Walter is on their team.

• This week's article dated 6/17/87:

Lauren's high and mighty D.U.C.K.S. fall to Colin, Rick, and Walter's team! Instead of playing up the intensity of the match and describing some excellent play by both teams, or the fact that Colin was 8-0 against them (no small feat), she blows out of proportion a minor incident in which the White Swallow team cheered an eight-ball scratch by the D.U.C.K.S. This is a team event, not gymnastics. People are excited and they cheer. Again, her vindictive nature got in the way of good, ethical journalism.

That last article was passed around last night's City Championship Final. Players and board members alike couldn't believe how ridiculous it was. Donna Blow, president of the S.F.P.A. and the referee of the D.U.C.K.S.-White Swallow match, was astounded and upset over Lauren's attitude. She believes that these articles are bad P.R. for our league.

As sports editor you should do a service to your readers and find another more ethical journalist to cover the S.F.P.A.

Rick Mariani
San Francisco

Lauren Ward responds: My qualifications as a spokesperson for the local pool-playing community stem from a five year commitment to working with the league as Head Referee. In addition, I spent two years planning and executing the billiard competition in Gay Games II. There is no one in the community who has volunteered more hours of commitment than I over that time.

I, too enjoyed Gene Miller's column and was pleased to know that he has since compiled my columns in his personal collection.

I have never known anyone to think of me as vindictive and up to now have received only positive feedback on my articles.

I do write best about that which I personally experience. If a column reflects this to the detriment of other's accomplishments I apologize. To claim that Colin Bradley and I do not get along is a complete fabrication. I enjoy Colin's personality and have complete respect for his skills.

Regarding the Top-16 coverage, I again wrote about what I saw. I did not see Rick or Colin play a single match and they both left well before the pre-announced end of play which was running ahead of schedule.

Regarding last week's article, I did mention the excellent play and Colin's undefeated status. I wholeheartedly admit to a bias towards good sportsmanship without which the game we all love becomes something ugly. I do regret airing the matter in public as it's

not in the league's best interests.

It's my hope that the current city champions will represent us proudly and that we can put the past behind us. I would also invite anyone to submit future articles on pool to B.A.R. as I intend to do.

Weary of O'Leary

★ This letter is in response to one sent in by a Connal D. O'Leary.

As a rider who chooses not to wear a helmet, I resent being called an "idiot" by someone who doesn't even know me.

In 1973, with my own hands, I built the Harley-Davidson I still ride every day. It is a rigid-framed, hand-shifting, hot-rod Harley, and I've ridden it for 14 years through 38 states, staying alive and in one piece all this time. I feel this qualifies me in making my statements. (I didn't just start in '82 on a Honda 450, O'Leary)

Besides having the choice, legally, to make today, there are other reasons I have for not wearing a helmet. With a helmet on your head, you can not hear as well. Stick both your hands over your ears, and you'll see what I mean. Hearing traffic move around is very important. Secondly, your vision is impaired, especially if you wear the full-face coverage helmet. Third, they are very hot in the summer. Sitting at a red light on a hot summer day with engine heat invading your helmet is no fun. Fourth, it is an excess weight for your neck to handle in a crash situation. Fifth, helmets are incorrect in basic design. They should be built with a webbed support system like a construction hard hat. A hard hat transfers the shock of the blow to the support structure, a helmet transmits the shock to your head directly resulting in brain concussions and worse injuries.

Last, whatever happened to an individual's freedom of choice in America? Oh well, one law added here, one more law added there, it doesn't hurt that much, huh, O'Leary?

I am a union carpenter, union supporting gay American and I'm damned proud of it. If O'Leary wants to resort to stereotyping and calling me an idiot for exercising my freedom of choice, I'll stereotype him for being a helmeted wimp on a Honda 450, 650 or whatever. At least I have the brains to build what I ride. O'Leary, can you say the same?

The helmet manufacturers pump big dollars to lobbies and congress people. It makes simple sense, require all people to wear helmets, and helmet sales skyrocket.

You say head injuries kill most motorcyclists, I say correct, and head injuries are the number one cause of deaths in cars, also. Car seat belts today, helmets tomorrow? (After all, racers use them, too, O'Leary.)

I don't need a non-riding Congressman or O'Leary to protect me from myself.

I agree what we need is good rider education. We also need more public awareness through TV, or radio spots.

I've survived 14 years of riding all over America. I've ridden from Texas to Canada, and Florida to here. I've been hit by three cars, I pickup, I motorcycle, and one S.F. Muni bus, all without a helmet, and I'm still here to answer your stupid letter, O'Leary. We'll see if you can make it as long.

Good luck.

David Pittman
San Francisco

A New Treatment Trial

★ The gay press has done a good job covering potential AIDS/ARC treatments being tried both inside and outside the established medical community.

I am writing to make people aware of a treatment trial which will be run in San Francisco in association with Mt. Zion Hospital. This FDA approved study involves an investigation of the immune stimulating properties of low intensity energy fields. The fields have been tested in men with AIDS and ARC for over one year and have shown no evidence of side effects. The technique to be tested consists of simultaneous exposure to small magnetic and electric fields in combination with phototherapy (light).

The present study is for people with ARC and will run twelve weeks. It will be a placebo controlled study. (There is no cost to participants, who will be given a weekly travel stipend.) Should this technique prove effective all participants will have access to active treatment at the conclusion of the study, free of charge, pending FDA review.

Current participants with over one year experience are available to answer questions. If you are interested in this project, please call (415) 923-1656.

Leland Traiman, R.N.
Family Nurse Practitioner
San Francisco

Internalized Homophobia

★ To each his (or her) own, I suppose. However, when I read about such organizations as Dignity and "Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights," I can't help but wonder. It seems to many of us that to be a responsible gay person in this day and age, while simultaneously embracing institutions and/or ideologies which have made it resoundingly clear they want no part of us is a remarkable study in internalized homophobia and self-degradation.

As for Thomas Edwards and his hate-filled diatribes (is there anyone or anything the man approves of other than the Reagan Administration and the wrathful, paranoid and equally hate-filled Dorothy Applegate?)... well, historians have claimed that there were numbers of Jews in Nazi Germany who initially bought into Hitler's propaganda. Unfortunately, that didn't help them much when the SS came banging at their doors.

Keith Stephens
Oakland, CA

Intestinal Parasites

★ Intestinal parasites, (which cause infections such as amebiasis and giardiasis) continue to be a problem in gay men in San Francisco. Individuals infected with parasites are frequently without symptoms and can transmit them to sex partners even if they are careful about following "safer sex" guidelines. Hands and sex toys can carry microscopic amounts of fecal matter to the mouth, where they can be swallowed and cause infection.

We invite your readers to take the opportunity to get tested for parasites through our free screening program. The Department of Public Health provides screening services at several sites. More information on the program and screening sites is available at 558-5277.

Giuliano Nieri, Leeza Stoller
Bureau Communicable Disease Control
SF Department of Public Health

Preserving Gay & Lesbian History

★ Re letters to the Editor (B.A.R., June 11), I was dismayed and bemused by the suggestions of James F. Gibbons. Mr. Gibbons seems to labor under the misconception that the Mugar Library is some sort of "national gay archive" and that there are no other such archival activities worthy of his consideration. Perhaps the most worrisome aspect of his letter is an implicit homophobia which equates gay initiative with unsuitable but institutional initiative as suitable affiliation.

There are several gay and lesbian archives and libraries, both in North America and Western Europe, which have a broad collecting focus. Some are institutionally funded and affiliated, and some must support themselves.

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society (SFBAGLHS), on the other hand, has a particular focus on the Bay Area and Northern California and, by logical extension, related areas of interest, e.g. pre-Stonewall California lesbian and gay history, gays and the U.S. military, or San Francisco's role in the AIDS crisis.

I would very much question the wisdom, for example, of donations being made to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. rather than to the California Historical Society or the Pioneers of California, based on similar such reasons of prestige, etc. It strikes me as curious also that a Boston-based archive would be better positioned than locally-based organizations to document West Coast history.

The SFBAGLHS participates in the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Libraries and Archives, and several of our members are among the most active researchers, participants, and organizers of the international gay history conferences which have been held over the past decade. The 1985 conference was held in Toronto, and the 1987 conference will be in Amsterdam.

I regret the inaccurate picture drawn by Mr. Gibbons' letter, and I hope the above information will be more illuminating to B.A.R. readers. It is of utmost importance that we preserve our gay and lesbian history now, and we hope you will lend your support to whichever such effort you feel is most appropriate.

Les Wright, Co-Chair
SFBAGLHS

Let's Offer Something

★ Will this March on Washington be just another dreary, whining body-count among the marble? Will we screech demands at people who already resent us for being so free, and already blame us for AIDS? I'm not blaming us. I'm just asking how we might participate in structuring a world more positive than the one now ready to start bashing us again. At least

the extreme reactionary fundamentalists have some vision of how they would like to see the future.

Wouldn't it be better to offer something? Are we the poets, priests, teachers, healers, musicians, artists of the world, or are we its dying victims? Why not come into Washington with joy and concrete healing? This is a city with 80 percent poor population. Why not have our presence be a magnificent healing with neighborhood fix-ups, clinics, teach-ins, arts experiences. Our magnificent healing in Washington, D.C. Oct. 9-11 can reinvest that corrupt city with the cosmic power and vision of our country's founders and the Life Force we claim to serve. There are marches and there are marches. Ours needn't be just a body-count.

I, for one, am going to attempt to stage my *Robin Hood*, with narration by Quentin Crisp (updated for AIDS) so that it can be an event on those evenings. I would like to rehearse *Robin* with actors in L.A. who are already planning to go to the march. If you imagine Friar Tuck, Little John, etc. you'll see that all "types" will be needed... not to exclude the beautiful (inside and out.) I hope actors will send photo and resume at the address below.

At the march another aspect that I thought would be in the realm of possibilities is the idea of having small "floats" with costumed gay figures from history. Any bar or organization could get together the costumes, etc. and sponsor a float. These would be good media photo opportunities, since the historical figures would in fact be literally floating above masses of contemporary demonstrators.

Glenn Hopkins, Producing Director
Venice Mootney Theatre
1111 Eleventh St., #9
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Misbegotten Editorial

★ The following letter was sent to Mr. Larry Kramer Executive Editor, San Francisco Examiner, 110 Fifth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103:

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Will Hearst III should spend more time reading his newspaper and less chatting with the ghost of his grandfather! Even Ann Landers knows the difference between being antibody positive and having AIDS or ARC, yet the Examiner's June 14 editorial continually says that mass testing is necessary so that those who are "infected" with AIDS can be identified, counseled and treated.

Mass testing will identify only people who have been exposed to the virus, many of whom will have no symptoms of AIDS or ARC and may never develop any. Thus the excuse that we must find these "infected people" so they "may be cared for in their suffering" is simply a thinly disguised version of the Reagan administration's belated approach to the epidemic: Identify them so they can't infect us! As the Examiner knows if it's been paying attention to its own respected medical writer, there is no treatment for people who have been exposed to the virus but haven't contracted one of the opportunistic diseases that characterize AIDS and ARC—and these people may never need treatment!

The editorial doesn't even attempt to explain how mass identification of AIDS virus carriers will stem the spread of the virus, except to suggest that they should be "persuaded not to spread the disease." Perhaps Mr. Hearst's grandfather has been telling him how our government "persuaded" Japanese Americans not to spread sedition during World War II.

In fact, the entire right-wing agenda of identifying the sexual partners and fellow dopers of those who test HIV-positive will do little to stem the spread of AIDS, because it will be after the fact. If the Examiner were truly interested in prevention, it would demand that every man, woman and child be fully educated about what AIDS is and how it spreads. The truth is that, short of rape or assault with as contaminated instrument, no "infected" person can pass the virus to any informed person who does not willingly assume the risk. And very few of us are suicidal, or stupid enough to take unnecessary chances when we know about the simple precautions that can prevent transmission of the virus.

Virtually every responsible public health official has made the point that education is vital, and mandatory testing is counterproductive. Yet the Examiner says teaching "the uninfected... how to avoid putting themselves at risk" is secondary to mass testing, lamenting that teenagers ("particularly black and Hispanic") will not be as responsive to anti-AIDS education as gays! Of course our youngsters aren't as responsive—they're being given precious little information to respond to! And those who should be educating them—like the Examiner, our elected representatives, even the Secretary of Education—are so busy demanding identification of those already exposed (ok, "infected" if you prefer the traditional Hearst approach) that they're putting the unexposed at the very risk they claim to be concerned about! This approach—and the Examiner's misbegotten editorial—are truly appalling!

D. W. Wade
San Francisco

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Wayne Friday



Cesar Ascarrunz shocked even heterosexuals with comments about John Molinari and Roger Boas.
(Photo: Rink)

Ascarrunz Should Quit

In a debate with the four other mayoral candidates before a packed house at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club last week, nightclub owner and perennial political candidate Cesar Ascarrunz, now running for mayor, confirmed that homophobia is alive and well in San Francisco politics.

Ascarrunz, a small-time politician with a limited political base in the outer Mission, shocked even the conservative, mostly-heterosexual crowd during a question-and-answer period when he callously blamed fellow

candidates John Molinari and Roger Boas for the worsening AIDS crisis. Ascarrunz claimed that Molinari and Boas are "responsible for AIDS (because) they opened the gates to gay people (in the city)." When the stunned crowd showed their disapproval at the remark, Ascarrunz tried to cover his homophobia by quickly adding that "I have a lot of gay friends."

Mr. Ascarrunz' ugly display of homophobia was nothing more than a naked pitch for anti-gay votes. San Franciscans of all political persuasions should de-

mand that Ascarrunz get out of the mayoral race. There is no place for Cesar Ascarrunz' comment in San Francisco politics.

My candidate for president? It's got to be Bruce Babbitt, the former governor of Arizona. Babbitt said publicly this week that if he is elected president, he will issue an executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in all government hiring, including service in the military.

Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), another presidential hopeful, when asked about such an executive order, ducked it by saying that he was not sure such a law concerning gays in the military was necessary, adding that "I don't know what my policy would be."

The governing body of the American Medical Association endorsed a report this week that emphasizes voluntary over mandatory testing and urges stepped-up education to fight AIDS. The report also has the endorsement of U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. It says that the Reagan Administration's proposed spending on AIDS is "not enough" and specifically endorsed a bill by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) to increase funding to expand voluntary testing and provide counseling.

Steve Schulte, the outgoing mayor of West Hollywood, is the guest speaker at the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance breakfast at the Comstock Club on Friday, June 26, at 8 p.m. Call Don Disler at 392-2800 for info.

Belated birthday wishes to Mayor Dianne Feinstein who turned 54 on Monday (and looking good, Madame Mayor).

Supporters of John Molinari had to be pleased with the rousing welcome he received when introduced by Mr. Marcus as "San Francisco's next mayor" at the S.F. Eagle Sunday. However, his popular wife, Louise, received an even wilder welcome when the two appeared before the packed bar during the auction for AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Service Fund.

For the first time in its 12-year history of celebrating Gay Pride, the Santa Clara County's gay/lesbian community has received the blessing of the mayor's office. San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery, in his proclamation, said the gay and lesbian community "seeks opportunities to foster self-worth and dignity... and, at



Presidential hopeful Bruce Babbitt has Wayne's hurrahs.

the same time, provide an atmosphere where all people can feel free to live and work together harmoniously."

I had to happen: Assembly Speaker Willie Brown quietly approved a plan this week that allows Assembly members to charge the state for up to four round-trip flights a month to their home district. Until now, members were allowed only one trip per legislative session.

In Washington, D.C., police union president Gary Hankins accused Mayor Marion Barry and other city officials of "pandering to the gay community." This happened after some city officials reversed previous positions and condemned officers' use of yellow protective gloves during a White House AIDS protest where a number of activists were arrested.

The American Federation of Teachers endorsed John Molinari's mayoral candidacy this week.

Rep. Barbara Boxer and Sen. Milton Marks are holding a reception at the senator's home on Friday, July 10, to help Harry Britt retire his congressional campaign debt. The reception is at 55 Jordan Ave. from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$50; call 621-6164 for info.

Labor To March In Parade

Members of trade unions will be marching in Sunday's Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. Marchers will begin gathering at 9 a.m. at the corner of Spear and Folsom. The march will begin at 11 a.m. Marchers are encouraged to carry union banners. For further information call 861-0318.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

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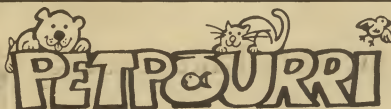
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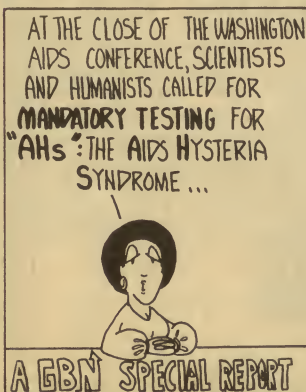
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Legal Battle for Rights Demands New Strategy

Hardwick Ruling Ended Two Decades of Efforts; But Courts Only Part of the Struggle

by Ed Power

The past year was a mixed one for gay rights in courtrooms across America. The headlines tell one story of bad news, but behind the headlines, a number of victories were achieved. While we suffered some setbacks, there were some promising developments as well in the drive for legally establishing gay rights.

In June of last year, as the country geared up to celebrate the Statue of Liberty, the United States Supreme Court dealt the struggle for gay rights a critical blow when it upheld a Georgia statute punishing private, consensual sex.

But while the defeats dominated the headlines, there were a number of victories. The same Supreme Court that had denied gays any right to privacy handed a victory for the rights of people with AIDS.

The court rejected the Reagan Administration's attempt to permit discrimination on the basis of false fears of casual contagion. A number of states also began to use their own laws to protect the rights of people with AIDS.

Although not the stuff of which headlines are made, there was a steady stream of small victories as lesbian mothers won custody of their children, insurance companies were persuaded to pay for experimental AIDS drugs, and gays and lesbians learned how to use simple legal documents like wills and partnership agreements to reclaim some of the rights society denied them.

"It's like there are two competing streams of legal thought," said Ben Schatz, an attorney with National Gay Rights Advocates, "one of which is homophobic and the other of which gives me hope. I'm still not sure which one is going to win." Nevertheless, Schatz echoed the sentiment of others when he stressed the need to prepare for some difficult battles in the near future.

"The gay and lesbian community has been extraordinary," he said, "but given what's coming we're going to have to be even more extraordinary if we're going to win the battle to come."

HARDWICK CASE A SETBACK

Sodomy laws — laws that criminalize certain sexual acts even when practiced in private between consenting adults — have long been viewed as one of the major obstacles to gay rights. So when lawyers involved in the fight to overturn these laws learned of the details of Michael Hardwick's arrest, they were overjoyed.

Hardwick, 28, had been arrested in his own bedroom for engaging in oral sex with another consenting adult and was facing up to twenty years in prison under a Georgia law which made all oral and anal sex a felony. It seemed the perfect case with which to test the constitutionality of sodomy laws.

On June 30, however, just one day after hundreds of thousands of people across the country had marched in gay freedom day parades, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Hardwick's arrest was constitutional. Denying that "the federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy," the court held that the Georgia law was a valid exercise of the state's right to criminalize that which it believed to be immoral.

In a bitter dissent, Justice Harry Blackmun, joined by three

other justices, chastised the court's handling of the case. He accused the majority of having allowed the state to invade "the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men, namely the right to be left alone."

He said he hoped that "the court soon will reconsider its analysis and conclude that depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our nation's history than tolerance of nonconformity could ever do."

As news of the decision spread, spontaneous demonstrations erupted in several cities, and most every major newspaper editorialized against the court's conclusion. Subsequent opinion polls showed that not only gays and lesbians, but America as a whole, disagreed with the court's reasoning.

Nevertheless, when the dust cleared and the anger subsided, 24 states still had laws criminalizing consensual sodomy and, for now, the hope that the federal courts would protect gay rights was dead.

While the 5 to 4 vote in the Hardwick case left some hope that the decision would eventually be reversed, the court's decision put an end to two decades of work in the federal courts aimed at expanding the scope of the right to privacy to protect homosexuals.

Characterizing the decision as "the worst single legal set back in the last twenty years," Paul Wotman, a San Francisco attorney, said, "We finally had a chance to present twenty-five years of precedent to the court, and in an extraordinarily dishonest decision, they turned around and said, 'We're sorry. These rights don't apply to queers.'"

FAR REACHING EFFECT

The ramifications of Hardwick were quick to materialize. On July 7, the Supreme Court rejected a request to review a Texas case, leaving intact a lower court's ruling that the Texas sodomy statute was constitutional. Because the Supreme Court ruling was binding on all federal courts, challenges to the Louisiana and Minnesota sodomy statutes pending in federal courts in those states were withdrawn.

While state courts remained free to find that sodomy laws violated their state constitutional guarantees of privacy, several chose to follow the United States Supreme Court's lead. Just eight days after the Hardwick decision was announced, the Missouri Supreme Court, citing that case, upheld the validity of that



"It's like there are two competing streams of legal thought, one of which is homophobic and the other of which gives me hope. I'm still not sure which one is going to win."

—Attorney Ben Schatz
(B.A.R. Photo: Brian Jones)

state's sodomy laws. In early 1987, the Louisiana Supreme Court did the same. Similar cases are currently pending in Kentucky and Minnesota.

Nor was the effect of the decision limited to making private sexual behavior illegal. According to Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project, "in terms of the impact of sodomy laws, while there are few arrests, it's almost always the case that the existence of these laws is used as a pretext for all kinds of homophobic activity."

The existence of sodomy laws has also been used to justify denying gays security clearances and in an unsuccessful attempt to bar homosexuals from practicing law in Florida.

A SURPRISE VICTORY

While the headlines were dominated by news of defeat, the past year was not without its victories. In one of the most significant of these, the United States Supreme Court gave the fight against AIDS discrimination a major boost. Rejecting the Rea-

In a bitter dissent in the *Bowers v. Hardwick* case, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun defended 'the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men, namely the right to be left alone.'



As an example, Achtenberg described numerous cases in which the existence of sodomy laws affected attempts by lesbian mothers to win custody of their children. "Time and time again," she said, "the courts will look at a lesbian mother and say it can't be in the child's best interest to give custody to someone the law defines as an habitual felon."

gan Administration's argument that discrimination based on unfounded fear of contagion was permissible, the Court held that federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicap also protected people from being discriminated against because of false fears about their handicap.

The case involved a Florida teacher with recurrent tuberculosis.

(Continued on page 38)



'Time and time again, the courts will look at a lesbian mother and say it can't be in the child's best interest to give custody to someone the law defines as an habitual felon.'

—Attorney Roberta Achtenberg
(Photo: Rink)

Mike Hippler

We Banded Together And Fought Back

Long before there were Gay Pride marches, there was gay pride. For some, the path to self-respect was an enlightened process, a deliberate and courageous decision to act upon needs which were recognized and accepted. For a great many more, however, it was a subconscious development, a gradual yet inevitable adjustment to needs, which, if not fully understood, were nevertheless too powerful to ignore.

The former lived as openly as possible and fought for change through organizations such as the Society for Individual Rights and the Mattachine Society. The latter led quieter lives, unaware, perhaps, of the possibility of change yet no more encumbered by shame or guilt than their peers. They simply allowed themselves to be what they had to be and, in doing so, helped set the stage for the great changes that were to follow.

Bob, 65, is one of the latter group. A native of Tulare, California, he joined the Army at age 19 in 1941 just before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Sent overseas with a medical unit, he learned to care for the wounded — and for the able-bodied as well.

It was on New Caledonia in 1943 that he first made love with a man. "I didn't think that was possible before," he recalls. "I didn't think you could fall in love with a man. But I did, and the relationship continued until I was shipped to Okinawa and he was left behind. We kept in touch for years but eventually lost contact. For years, I thought he had been killed."

After the war, Bob decided to stay in the Army. For him, it was anything but a repressive environment. "Oh, you had to be careful, especially when you were an officer," he admits, "but there were lots of other gay people in the service. I never had any trouble. I kept my cool and stood up for myself and others."

Nevertheless, "keeping cool" usually involved passing for straight. Fortunately, in the medical field there were plenty of lesbian nurses who were willing to help out in that regard. "Four of us would take off from the base on weekend passes and switch partners as soon as we got far enough away," Bob states.

"In the motels, we always got adjoining rooms, and nobody ever knew who was fucking who."

At one point, Bob even got married, but that was for love, not cover, he claims. The marriage ended not because he was gay but because his devotion to his career was greater than that to his wife.

Following stints at Army bases all over the world, including service in Korea during the Korean War, Bob retired from the military in 1962 and moved to San Francisco, one of his old "stomping grounds." One of the reasons he moved to San Francisco was the gay community there — a very different place in those days.

"There were no social or political clubs then," Bob says. "Or if there were, I didn't know about them. But there were a number of bars. Gordon's was the restaurant for years, the only place for good food and for meeting people. The Jumping Frog on Polk Street was

the only place with porno movies, and The Gilded Cage was where Charles Pierce made his debut."

At that time, Bob continues, "you had to be very careful, because liquor licenses were in high demand. If the ABC (the state liquor control board) could bust a gay bar to get a license and give it to somebody else, they would. You didn't dare touch anyone, for fear the ABC was there. I was never arrested, but some of my friends were, once just because a friend touched my leg when he was telling a joke."

In spite of this repression, Bob remembers the period fondly: "Wonderful friendships were formed. We had loyalty and respect for each other. If somebody was in need, somebody was there. We cared. Charles Pierce used to say, 'If we stick together, we'll make it. Individually, they'll get us one by one.'"

"Consequently, we banded together and fought back through organizations like the Tavern Guild. People felt like they had rights, so, what the hell, they stood up for them."

★★★

When the Stonewall riots ushered in the modern gay liberation movement, "I had reservations at first," Bob admits. "Were we moving too fast? Did we have our feet on the ground? Would we be harassed again? In spite of these concerns, though, I welcomed the changes, the openness. To see some of the younger generation get their shit together was great."

Although Bob has not yet marched in a Gay Pride parade, he has attended several of them. "I think they're wonderful," he says. "It's one way to let San Francisco and the world know what's going on here."

Of all the changes Bob has seen over the years, the biggest change has been what he calls "the acceptance of the gay community by government officials and the general public as an established thing." There have been setbacks, he admits, but for the most part he believes that things are looking better than ever. He even feels that the military will eventually accept openly gay people in the service.

"They ought to," he demands. "Calling us a security risk is the biggest farce I can imagine."

In the meantime, Bob will continue to depend on his friends as he always has. "I've had friends since the early '60s that are still my closest friends. I'd do anything for them, and they'd do anything for me. We've come a long way, baby, and only because we stuck together and stood up for each other. To me, that's what gay pride is all about — camaraderie and love for one another."

Oh yeah, one more thing. In 1985, Bob discovered that his first lover, the one on New Caledonia, was not killed during the war. Instead, he is alive and well in Tahoe. Meeting for the first time in almost 40 years, they found they had more in common than ever before. Still attracted to one another, they aren't lovers yet — "but," says Bob, "we're working on it."

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Arlo Smith
District Attorney

There's Still Time To Enter

118 In The Fold For Pledge Run

by Jay Newquist

There's still time to lace those running shoes to join the Pledge Run in June to raise money for AIDS-related charities. Some 118 runners have already registered and have run from 50 to 300 miles in a fundraising event sponsored by the San Francisco FrontRunners.

Bob Puerzer, organizer of the Pledge Run, said this week that some runners had raised \$1,000 even before the end of the month in an outpouring of support and concern reminiscent of the recent AIDS Bike-A-Thon.

Puerzer said S.F. FrontRunner Doug Farson was a member of the \$1,000-plus group who was motivated to join the Pledge Run because he recently lost three people to AIDS in the same month.

"It's hard to find anyone who hasn't been affected by the AIDS crisis," said Farson, who is also running to encourage others to keep healthy and running.

All the Pledge Run participants and their sponsors choose which AIDS-related charity to support and these recipients include the S.F. AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Emergency Fund, Shanti, and the Hospice of the East Bay, among others.

Chris Charette, president of S.F. FrontRunners, has also joined the Pledge Run and said "whatever help you can give as an individual will go a long way."

The AIDS Pledge Run also dovetails with Gay Run '87, the 5K and 10K race sponsored by S.F. FrontRunners that kicks off on July 12 in Golden Gate Park.

Puerzer said some 112 runners had registered thus far, but he predicted that number would double when the race begins at



Some of the Pledge Run participants. (Photo: Steve Savage)

9 a.m. at the polo field near the south parking lot in the park.

Pre-registration with a T-shirt is \$12 and \$7 without the T-shirt before July 12, and race day registration is \$8 (without the T-shirt).

The race has six age groups and also includes heavyweight, walking and wheelchair divisions. Gay Run '87, which is in its eighth year, is planned and staged through registration fees.

Sponsors this year include Sticky Bun Bakery, Cala Foods, Just Desserts, Bakers of Paris, Safeway, and Crystal Geyser.

Puerzer also invited all run-

ners and onlookers to attend a post-race celebration/potluck in Lindley Meadow to honor participants in both the Pledge Run and Gay Run '87. Bring a main course, salad or dessert.

Also on tap from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. is a post-race tea dance at the Trocadero Transfer on July 12. Admission is \$3 for registered runners and \$5 for general admission.

For more information about the Pledge Run and Gay Run '87, contact S.F. FrontRunners at 1550 California St., Suite 6L200, S.F., CA 94109, or call 922-1435 or 647-3227.

Harvard Study Shows 9 of 10 'False Positive'

Agnos Urges Safeguards

by Ray O'Loughlin

In an unpublished study by Harvard University's School of Medicine and School of Public Health, researchers claim that nine out of ten people from low risk groups will test false positive to HIV antibody. Even after confirming tests on groups, such as marriage license applicants, as many as one out of four will wrongly be identified as HIV positive.

Those figures were released to the Bay Area Reporter by Assemblyman Art Agnos who had obtained an advance copy of the Harvard study. Agnos immediately issued a plea to Gov. George Deukmejian to be cautious in any plan for wide scale testing for AIDS.

According to a June 12 letter from Agnos to Deukmejian, present blood tests for HIV antibody are designed to "overreact" to guarantee purity of the nation's blood supply. "If we end up tossing out good blood because we are extra cautious, that is a small price to pay," writes Agnos. But, he says, "turning this same test to screening people obviously has a different effect."

Agnos repeated the federal

Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) warning that the test is to be used only for screening blood supplies and is "not licensed to screen members of groups at increased risk of AIDS."

According to Agnos, the FDA has no plans to alter that recommendation and violation of it is possibly a federal crime.

The Harvard study also indicates that many factors can produce an HIV positive test result even though a person is not a carrier of the virus. Some forms of arthritis, for example, produce false positive results.

The Harvard researchers conclude their article," said Agnos' letter, "by saying that because of testing problems, the AIDS anti-

body test should be treated like an "experimental" drug or device, and used only with the consent of the individual and with tight confidentiality and protection against abuses."

Agnos recommended that the governor include a number of safeguards in any testing plan he may propose. He recommended that 1) only physicians who understand the limitations of the test be licensed to administer it; 2) specific consent of those tested be required; and 3) safeguards against discrimination be adopted.

He urged the governor to send a "strong message to all Californians that discrimination will not be tolerated in our state."

Agnos authored A.B. 403, restricting the use of antibody testing in California, and is presently a candidate for mayor in San Francisco



"On the Street"

Location: Castro and 18th streets
Greg Vogel, Interviews
Steve Savage, Photography

Q: Does the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade still mean something to you, or is it just a holdover from the 1970s?

Paul Christian, Office Worker, Cathedral Hill



"I do look forward to seeing the parade every year. I've seen it for the past nine years. It's gotten larger, and I think people are expressing their feelings more. They're fighting for their rights."

Ray Coshaw, Computer Programmer, Castro

"It's something I still care about. I go every year. But what drives people away sometimes is when it gets too serious, when there's not enough balance between the political aspects and the celebration."



Mary Beedle, Construction Worker, Duboce Triangle



"It means a lot. It's the one time of year when we all get together and just celebrate our unity and pride. It's one of the best things in the world, to be at that parade."

Leonardo Pichardo, Customer Services Correspondent, Mission

"The parade allows me to celebrate. It's a big release. It let's me party — not like the good old days, but it's one of the few times a year — like Halloween and the Castro Street Fair — we can party all night and not worry about consequences."



Tom O'Drain, Sales Manager, Diamond Heights



"It's more important to be visible today, to show we need support for more funding for AIDS. The parade shows the world we're not ready to regress, even with this epidemic. I also like seeing the diversity in the parade. It's not only a gay parade, it's a stand for mankind."

Barbara Vick, Designer, Noe Valley

"I support all the gay issues, but the parade itself actually gets kind of tedious. There are so many groups marching, they all sort of run together. I probably won't go."



Virginia LaGrossa, Consultant, Noe Valley



"I would go for the entertainment value — not for the political or social or sexual issues. Frankly, I don't know how much personal meaning it has for me. But I'm not discrediting the parade, because anything that unifies the community is worthwhile."

Ross McFadden, Manager, Van Ness

"I was transferred here eight months ago, and haven't seen the parade in 10 years. The 1977 parade just blew me away. I'm looking forward to seeing what this one will be about. My friends tell me this is something to look forward to."



STOP AIDS Tries To Contact Past Volunteers

Volunteer telephone teams are currently attempting to contact over 7,000 former participants from the STOP AIDS Project's discussion groups from the past two and one-half years. "Alumni" from the Project are being invited to join the STOP AIDS Project's contingent in the parade as a statement of thanks to the com-

munity and to the city for the recent success of AIDS-prevention programs here.

"Thank You, San Francisco," is the theme of the Projects parade entry. "We'd like a huge number of people in our group as a statement that safe sex works, that our community is being incredibly responsible about AIDS prevention, and that other communities have the same opportunity for success in stopping new infection by the AIDS virus," according to Bill Folk, the Projects executive director.

Past participants from STOP AIDS meetings and their friends are invited to meet the STOP AIDS contingent at Spear and Mission at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of the parade. For more information, call the STOP AIDS office at 621-7177.

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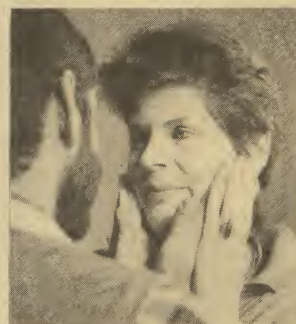
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Shanti Emotional Support Volunteer

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Armistead Maupin

Honesty About Our Lives Essential to Liberation

by Dell Richards

The view from Armistead Maupin's apartment is magnificent — the whole of San Francisco's famed Castro Valley lies below. It is a postcard view of California's most famous gay community. Despite the grandeur, however, three distractions gnaw at the mind.

A huge sleigh bed dominates the living room; a brilliant pastel portrait of Maupin makes it seem like there are two of him; and spidery cracks rip the ceiling which varies from yellow to orange while wallpaper peels down to expose bare brick.

Maupin, 43, sits beside the bed in a Mission-style chair. A family heirloom, his mother shipped it to him when he told her he was gay. Wearing an old-fashioned, collarless shirt and rumpled corduroy trousers, Maupin has to fight to hold his own against the painting by Don Bachardy, the late Christopher Isherwood's lover. Offering a glass of ice tea with mint, he hardly seems the pointed satirist of gay life. But his humor is evident, especially in the *trompe l'oeil* cracks on the ceiling.

"Jim Stoker painted that," he explains with a laugh. "Lots of people think it's real. He also painted mildew on the shower stall and dirt behind the refrigerator."

Like the striking walls, Maupin's life is filled with eccentricity. He comes from a long line of rugged individuals who fought for their beliefs. His grandmother was an outspoken suffragette who toured England on behalf of women's rights; his mother founded the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and his brother is now head of the Wake County, N.C. Republican party.

The high-spiritedness comes in handy for Maupin when writing fiction. He used his father's credentials, for instance, for the character of Booter Manigault — the famed member of the conservative bastion of old-world chauvinism, the Bohemian Club.

"My father is a member of the President's Battle Monuments Commission and travels around to military graveyards with Reagan," Maupin says.

Maupin's father is not the only colorful member of the family who has found their way into his novels. The free-wheeling landlady of the series, Anna Madri-

gal, was written with the spirit of Maupin's grandmother in mind. His earliest memory of her is seeing her on stage in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

"She was a big influence on my childhood and a fairly dramatic lady, someone who believed in reincarnation, vegetarianism and read palms — long before it was popular."

She also was the first person he heard take someone to task for a homophobic remark.

But the biggest surprise is not the characters modeled after his family but the character Maupin plays this time around — DeDe Halcyon, the wealthy lesbian from Hillsborough.

"I'm trying to reconcile this stuffy aristocratic background with a new life as an activist," he explains. "I come from a fairly snobbish background, snobbish in some ways because I was taught conventional Southern attitudes. I didn't really shake that off until I came to San Francisco and came out."

"In that way, I think the gay experience was a very democratizing one for me," he goes on to say with another laugh. "When you're at a bathhouse, for instance — in the old days — and everyone is naked, it's truly a situation of equality."

Being gay taught him not just about homosexual oppression but oppression in all guises.

"If your heart is in the right place," he said, "you can learn a

lot by being homosexual. You learn to appreciate other people's oppression when you recognize what it is that makes your life uncomfortable."

But if homosexuals ever hope to be accepted, Maupin believes that being honest about our lives is essential.

"We're all in the same stew together," he says. "We all have the same feelings, the same longings. We all make ourselves ridiculous over love. The most frustrating thing about most of the press handling of the subject of homosexuality is that it's still made to seem so exotic and rarefied — as if it weren't ten percent of the population."

True to his belief, Maupin encouraged a friend of his — the late Rock Hudson — to come out of the closet long before the former movie star got AIDS and publicly came forward.

'The most frustrating thing about most of the press handling of the subject of homosexuality is that it's still made out to seem so exotic and rarefied — as if it weren't ten percent of the population.'

—Armistead Maupin

"He had a kind of hell-raising streak in him," Maupin says. "Privately, he detested the charade he was often required to carry out. And he made no secret of his homosexuality in Hollywood. But he came from a generation that expected the worst. He would never have been forced to budge from that position if AIDS hadn't come along."

Maupin sees that act as the most important one of Hudson's life. And though it changed Hudson's view of the world — he expected to be shunned but 30,000 letters of love and encourage-



Armistead Maupin

(Photo: Rink)

ment poured in to him after the announcement that he had AIDS — Maupin believes Hudson's coming out hasn't changed the media enough.

"There's a double standard as far as private life is concerned," he says. "In an effort to keep gay people invisible in, say Hollywood, the argument is made that this is their private life. Therefore, we have no right to talk about this."

"But the same standard is not applied to heterosexuals. We don't talk about Robert Redford's private life, for instance, but we do know that he's married and that he's heterosexual. It's way of keeping an enormous stigma attached to homosexuality."

Despite the ravages to the community, he sees AIDS as having had a positive political effect in this one regard.

"AIDS forced the press to become mature about the subject of homosexuality very, very fast," he says. "We were kept virtually invisible — our civil rights struggles were not even recorded by the mainstream press — until AIDS came along."

"Rock Hudson was the watershed, essentially," he goes on. "After that story broke and America was allowed to find out about AIDS — and I say 'allowed' because the press had deliberately ignored the story for four years. I watched 20 of my friends die before anyone chose

to take it seriously.

"It took Rock Hudson before they would profess any interest in the subject," he concludes. "It took something this terrible to make our puritanical culture discuss something that is a very natural and matter of fact part of life."

Although Maupin is outspoken in his beliefs, he is not actively involved in the San Francisco political scene. He was a Republican at age 16 and has crossed to the other side of the political spectrum since. For him, politics and San Francisco as a veritable zoo. He does fight his own battles though.

When the San Francisco Examiner refused to print that someone who died of AIDS was survived by a lover, he went right to the top — to publisher William Randolph Hearst, III, to protest. His willingness to take a stand made a difference. Today, the Examiner is one of the few papers in the country that mentions the lover instead of the surviving spouse.

"How much longer will they paint it as a dirty little secret?" he questions. "Til we start recording our own history, we will never be legitimized in anyone's eyes, even our own."

Through his work, through the world he has created in his novels, that is what Maupin does — make homosexuality just another part of life.

Happy Anniversary A Kiss Is Not Just A Kiss

by Edisol W. Dotson

In February of 1986, I resigned from my job, gave notice on my humble apartment, packed up what I wanted to keep and sold what I didn't, and boarded a plane for San Francisco. Having no friends, no home and not even an inkling of what I was going to do to support myself, I remained optimistic about the adventure. By moving I fulfilled a long-standing fantasy of a drastic act of relocation and though I was very malcontent with leaving behind my family and a lifetime of friends, deep within my heart and soul I knew I was doing the right thing in leaving.

Most of the men I had met and dated in Washington, D.C., though claiming to be "out" and therefore comfortable with their sexuality were in fact not and this

caused a great deal of my own discomfort. In being a gay person who is truly "out" and truly comfortable with my sexuality, I found it extremely difficult to

spend time with men who were afraid of holding hands in public. And God forbid I should even entertain the idea of publicly kissing them.

Given the antiquated rules and regulations of current day society I can sympathize with the fear of "being found out," but I can no longer accept this fear as justification for keeping secrets. The laws will continue in a direction more favorable to us, but there is the danger of this change being very slow if we do not become more responsible for ourselves. It can be unusual (perhaps not so much in San Francisco, but for gays outside of the city) to see two men or two women walking down the street holding hands or exchanging a simple hug and kiss. But it needn't be so unusual and is only because more of us are not willing to do it. There was a time when it was unusual to see a racially mixed couple in public. Not so anymore. This could be true for gay couples as well, if we make it our responsibility and allow it to happen.

Because of Washington's inconstant political atmosphere and the seemingly self-defeating

attitude of gays there, I came to accept (though never did I approve of) these fears. They were, in fact, a major factor in my decision to leave. I chose San Francisco not because it is a reputed haven for gays but because I felt that it would be easier for me to be myself, to have my self-expression admired instead of something to run away from. Though I am not looking for utopia I wish to come as close to it as possible. I haven't been here long enough nor have I met enough people to know whether or not I've come to the right place.

I have been here long enough, however, to have already experienced a *deja vu* of my time in Washington. I was very taken aback one day recently when, after having had lunch, I wanted to kiss goodbye a new friend. Being the gentleman that I am, I of course asked if I could do so before I puckered and launched ahead.

(Continued on page 32)

"I enjoy sex, but I'm not ready to die for it"



"AIDS. There's still no cure in sight. And until there is, I want to do everything I can to protect myself and my partner."

AIDS is transmitted from one sexual partner to another, often by those who have contracted the disease without even knowing it.

But what is so alarming about this terrible disease is that some people are not doing everything they possibly can to prevent it.

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RAMBLIN' ON THE RIVER



Want to Make Your Summer Hot? — Head North — to 'The River'

by Gregory Douthwaite

When summer fog rolls through the Golden Gate, it's time to head for fun in the sun. Time to go to the River. That means Russian River. Gay resorts abound in and nearby the small town of Guerneville, population 6,000. Located 70 miles north of the city, Guerneville is picturesquely set among the redwoods on the banks of the Russian River.

Guerneville was originally a logging town, and early residents called it Stumptown. George E. Guerne founded a sawmill there in 1865, supplying timber for the transcontinental railway.

In the 1920s, Guerneville became a booming resort town, and in the late '70s, gays and lesbians revitalized the town's depressed economy with a Gay Renaissance.

Inside the resorts and bars, it's a gay paradise. Men and women bask carefree in the hot summer sun by the swimming pools, and at night, you can dance away in the discos.

Canoes are a popular way of enjoying the river. Rentals are available at Johnson's Beach in downtown Guerneville and at Fife's resort, as well as at many



Resort cabins at the Highlands.



What a day for a daydream. Two boys just . . . relax . . . at the Russian River Resort's pool.

other locations.

Popular beaches along the river are east of Guerneville, along River Road. They include: Wohler Bridge, off Wohler Road; Sunset Beach, near Sunset Avenue; and Steelhead Beach, across from the Rusty Nail bar near Mirabel Road.

For the hearty and hale, hunting and fishing equipment and licenses are available at King's in Guerneville. Horseback trail rides and pack trips depart regularly from Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve.

WHERE TO STAY

One of the most popular and complete resorts is The Woods, located at the top of Armstrong Woods road at the park boundary. The Woods has rustic cabins, motel-style rooms, a disco, three bars, a restaurant, two swimming pools, an exercise room and a hot tub. Summer rates start at \$50 a room on weeknights and \$80 on weekends.

Another popular resort is Fife's, located across Fife's Creek just west of town on Hwy. 116. On 14 acres, Fife's has a campground, cabins, a bar (Buddies), and two pools. Also included with room rental is the use of sports facilities across the highway at

Atlantis beach. weeknight cabins nights,

The quiet n Woodla Woods down to lands h and a s ity is all are ser lounge, weekda rooms s weeken

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Atlantis, Fife's also has a private beach. Campsites are \$15 on weeknights, \$25 on weekends; cabins start at \$45 on weeknights, \$70 on weekends.

The Highlands is a charming, quiet resort, located on hilly Woodland Drive off Armstrong Woods Road, a short stroll from downtown Guerneville. Highlands has a campground, cabins, and a swimming pool where nudity is allowed. Coffee and pastries are served each morning in the lounge. Campsites are \$7/person weekdays, \$10/person weekends; rooms start at \$30 weekdays, \$40 weekends.

Other Guerneville resorts include Fern Grove, across the highway from Fife's; Camelot, at 4th and Mill Streets; The Estate, a luxury bed and breakfast across the highway bridge from town; Paradise Cove, on Armstrong Woods Road; The Willows, a guesthouse with campground on River Road east of town; and — away from town — Wildwood, a 200-acre mountain resort retreat with rooms, camping, a restaurant, and a pool with nude sunbathing.

Four miles west of Guerneville, in the tiny village of Monte Rio, is the Village Inn, an old-fashioned hotel, and T.J.'s beach resort and River View Inn, with a huge hot tub and free use of canoes.

EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY

The newest bar on the river is Club Atlantis, across from Fife's. The dance bar (formerly Drums) just reopened in May under new management. It had been closed for over a year after extensive flood damage, and has been completely remodeled. At present, the club is only open Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Atlantis also has a poolside bar open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Bartenders are friendly. There is an Olympic-sized pool, tennis, basketball, volleyball, jacuzzi, showers, and campsites.

On Sunday, July 28, Atlantis is having a gay pride/rainbow celebration. Friday, July 3, it's fireworks by the river, and July 4, there's a benefit for Sonoma County's AIDS group Face to Face with go-go balloon girls and a 2 p.m. "head shaving" of Mistress Kathy.

Another friendly eatery is Molly Brown's Saloon, a country/western bar with sawdust on the floor. The bar is located off the highway west of town on Old Cazadero Road. Try the pub food at Hamburger Molly's, it's surprisingly good.



The camping area at Fife's.

Other bars in Guerneville include the Bayou, across the highway from Molly Brown's, a lively bar with videos and dancing, open after hours 'til 4 a.m. on weekends; and the Rainbow Cattle Company (look for the neon rainbow on Main Street downtown). Rainbow Cattle Company offers pool tables, pinball and video games to a mostly gay male clientele. And don't forget the disco at The Woods, open Friday night, Saturday after hours, and for Sunday tea dance and barbeque.

For German food, head for Little Bavaria on Hwy. 116 at Hultbert Creek (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). For California cuisine, go to 'Bout Time, at 16251 Main Street. Or try Burdon's, on River Road east of town.

NEED MORE INFO?

At the Tourist Information Center on Armstrong Woods Road, pick up a copy of the Russian River Business Association guide, which gives more information on local businesses welcoming gay tourists.

Across the street, at The Last Word bookstore, pick up the latest issue of the free entertainment guide, This Month on the

River, as well as many gay and lesbian magazines and newspapers of interest.

If you're passing through Santa Rosa on Saturday, June 27, check out Sonoma County's first annual gay pride celebration. There will be a barbecue, a raffle, and games, as well as swimming, sailing and canoeing at Spring Lake County Park starting at noon. Take Hwy. 101 north to the Sonoma-Highway 12 exit in Santa Rosa. Proceed on Sonoma, which becomes Hoen Ave., turn left on Summerfield, right on Newanga, to the park entrance.

To get to Guerneville, take Hwy. 101 north past Santa Rosa to River Road, then travel west about 12 miles. By bus, take Golden Gate Transit to Santa Rosa and connect with Sonoma County Transit.

All Photos
by
James Dusch



The pool bar at Atlantis. Friendly folks and friendly times.



'I think for the first time in my life I realize how incredible it is to be a woman . . . I find myself as a gay woman, feeling more loved than I ever have before.'

—Bea Roman (left)

'I tell my daughter that she's very fortunate to be living here in this time. And I often tell her that you can be whatever you want to be.'

—Kathy Cruz (right)
(Photos: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



'We're Not Going To Let Anyone Divide Us'

Three Women Who Make a Difference

by Mary Richards

An entire culture has evolved from that night in 1969, in a bar in New York City, when the anguish and anger of years of repression exploded into violence. There were only a few women who shared in that experience, but throughout the years, as the gay movement — and the gay culture — has advanced, women have taken a more prominent role in the community.

Men and women are finding they have a common cause in the struggle for sexual freedom, and the choreography of our existence is enhanced by the participation of women in the arts, in politics and in business.

Kathy Cruz, Hydie Downard and Bea Roman have distinct yet similar goals as women actively involved in the community of San Francisco. Their backgrounds differ, yet a familiar theme is common to their experience: the pursuit of a nonseparatist lifestyle.

A CAREER IN THE CITY

As current and outgoing president of Bay Area Career Women (BACW), Kathy Cruz spends 30 to 40 hours a week working with that organization. She has served on its board for two years and has, as she says, "made the contribution that I set out to make and done many of the things that I intended to do." She plans not to seek the presidency for a second term because she believes it's time for new leadership.

"Part of our success," she explains, "is that we have a constant influx of women who are dedicated, who have talent. And those of us who've been there don't necessarily have to hang on to be involved. I think that's what has kept it so vibrant."

Myths and misconceptions about BACW and its activities are something that Kathy feels compelled to address. "We've been accused of being uppity and elitist, and we're not. But BACW has not been out as an organization," she says. "Part of the reason is that organizations have life cycles, and we were very concerned first about forming



'I'm proud that there are so many women who are active now and doing their part.'

—Hydie Downard
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

a solid foundation — solid in terms of membership, direction, resources, finances. We wanted to know who we were and where we were going.

"Plus, we needed the feedback from members on what our direction should be — we're very much guided by our membership. We definitely can't address the needs of every woman in San Francisco. We would never intend to — it would fragment every resource we had. We have to have a particular focus."

She acknowledges that the organization, although participating in various community endeavors, has not received publicity for its involvement and has not advertised it. "But we're at a time," Kathy says, "both as an organization and with the membership, that we want that. We won't compromise an individual's confidentiality, but we want the organization to be recognized for the strength that it has, for the community involvement, for what it does for women in the community: it provides an opportunity that doesn't exist anywhere else. It is the resource in the city for women."

The past year has marked a turning point for the organization, which is often accused of being purely a social group. They were a sponsor of Gay Games II, participated in the AIDS Bike-A-Thon by working at rest stops, were supporters of the recent In Memory Of Friends event and continue to support the gay parade program. The Golden Gate Business Association and BACW join together during the year to promote co-sexual activities.

A native of San Francisco, Kathy works for one of the largest clothing retailers in the Bay Area, and is the mother of a 13-year-old daughter. "One of the things that I tell my daughter," she remarks, "is that she's very fortunate to be living here in this time. And I often tell her that you can be whatever you want to be — a CEO, a landscape architect, a secretary or a mother. And it's the people who've gone before you who've paved the way."

Community involvement is a focal point of Kathy's life, but she expresses concern about the future. "We're in a very good spot,

but it's hard — times are getting tough. Lots of things have happened, both in the legislature and in attitudes, that might push us back. We had some great momentum during the Harvey Milk years, but with LaRouche, the AIDS crisis and other things, it's going to be more difficult for us to just maintain our advantages. We're saying, 'This is who we are,' and we're not going away, and we're not going to let anyone divide us either."

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

It is difficult to describe Hydie Downard without using the term activist. Her affiliations with the community are numerous and varied: former assistant commissioner of the Gay Softball League; first woman vice-president of the parent corporation for the Gay Games; former staff member of Robert Michael Productions, producers of the Closet Ball; former co-chair and member of the Gay Freedom Day Parade; board member of the Cable Car Awards; member of the board of directors of the Tavern Guild Foundation and the only woman in the Imperial Family, carrying the title (she says with a smile of affection) "Imperial Czar of the Castro Colonies."

The subject of women and how they relate to the community is an important one to Hydie. "I'm proud that there are so many women who are active now and doing their part. They're becoming leaders in every organization," she says. Her main goal has been to "bring men and women together and prove to the men of the community that the women, given a chance, will do a job just as well as they can."

She remembers how it was in the beginning, when she was one of the only women in the community who participated in male-dominated organizations. "I wanted to be involved," she recalls, "and I wanted to be a part of things. I didn't have to say I was a lesbian to join them, I was just like them, and we worked side by side. I have many deep friendships with men and I have for years. Maybe they liked my freckles," she says with a laugh,

(Continued on next page)

Three Women

(Continued from previous page)

"which are really angel kisses, my mother told me years ago."

Hydie doesn't like the expression 'activist' and says she's not a very political person. "I celebrate Gay Pride Week," she claims, "because I'm proud to be gay and because I feel that each year we have more and more to be proud of. Years ago the parade was all camp, it wasn't proving something — you were just out there having a good time. The original parade used to go down Folsom Street, back when you just had a couple of streets you drove down, and that was that. Everybody went into the bars and drank. You didn't have City Hall flying the gay flag."

This year marks the first time she is not on the parade board of directors, but she will coordinate the judging of the parade and will assist the chair of the Float Committee. "It's totally exhausting to work on," Hydie acknowledges, "but it's so wonderful to see it going down the street and know that you've put it on the street — there's just nothing that's more rewarding."

As long as there is a gay community Hydie will be involved in it — and she will continue to work with both men and women. "It was always my hope that there would be many women working in the men's community, and maybe I could have something to do with making that happen. I'm just glad that I was able to do it, and still, being one of the first, I hope to be one of the last, still working."

WITH STRENGTH AND ENERGY

As the development director of the Shanti Project for the last two years, Bea Roman has a unique opportunity to work with people in all cultural segments of the city. "I'm in a peculiar situation," she explains, "in that I don't think a gay woman who is involved in people with AIDS is like being a woman in any other profession or career."

"I think for the first time in my life I realize how incredible it is to be a woman. And men who are suddenly sick, who are looking at life very differently, and probably clearer than any of us, find the need for that woman in their life. I find myself as a gay woman, feeling more loved than I ever have before."

Bea's community involvement began in the early 60s when she lived in Washington, D.C. and worked for Jack and Bobby Kennedy. She was Martin Luther King's liaison to the White House and in 1983 was asked to go to New York to organize for the first AIDS Candlelight Vigil.

In New York she recalls being rejected by the Gay Men's Health Crisis because the gay male community "would not let me in." At that time, Bea says, "I was over-qualified for anything I went for in the straight world, and I didn't want to do anything but AIDS."

"You reach a point in your life, and it has taken me a long time, to know what you have to give. I'm good at what I do, and it has taken me a lifetime to learn how to do it." It was Bobby Reynolds who persuaded Bea to come to San Francisco, where she joined Shanti. "Shanti is so much a part of who I am," she declares. "I see what Shanti accomplishes and it's still awesome to me."

"I can't speak for all gay women, and I can't speak for

women involved with AIDS. For me, I have a lot of gratitude toward gay men in that I would never have had the opportunity or the strength to have come out without their support. The gay men that I met before I came out taught me about their sexuality and helped me understand my own. Because of those men I learned that it wasn't necessary for me to wear work boots, it wasn't necessary for me to change my persona to fit into a mold of being gay. Whatever my masculine or feminine traits were, that's who I was, and I didn't have to change any of that."

Bea now has five grown children, and although most of her friends find it hard to believe, grandchildren as well. "It took me a long time to become a woman," she says. "I was a wife for 28 years and before that I was a daughter. And at one point toward the end of my dad's life, when he lived with me, I was both and there wasn't a lot of identity as a woman."

It was her youngest daughter who made her realize that she needed to change her life, and who pushed her into the women's movement. Bea remembers that it was Deb, then a 15-year-old,

who said, "You're the woman who taught me, when are you going to look at yourself and see what you have to offer?"

Working with Shanti and being part of the gay community of San Francisco seems to be the place where Bea can offer the most. Her job involves fundraising, and she speaks with particular intensity about some of the people she has worked with in the city. "It's the drag queens here who will do the benefits, and I don't miss one of them," she says. "Nothing could be more fitting than drag queens raising money for AIDS."

"I think of the drag queens who were out there at Stonewall that had the guts to say, 'No more!' before any of us had the guts to say, 'I'm gay.' It was these men who were out there, taking the abuse, the ridicule, the beatings and who taught the rest of us to say, 'I am.' I'm amazed at the men and women who have forgotten that. Were it not for that handful of men in dresses who fought back, and fought with pride, there would be no Gay Freedom Day, there would be no gay community. We, the women, would not be out there were it not for those guys."

LA City Council Gives \$75K To Gay Center

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles City Council voted 11-1 to grant the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center an allocation of \$75,000 for the 1987-88 fiscal year to be used for capital improvements and Center renovation.

With leadership from Councilman Mike Woo's office and strong assistance from the Municipal Elections Committee of

Los Angeles (MECLA) and MECLA Board member Steve Smith, Executive Director Eric E. Rofes was able to coordinate a strategy for including the funding into the budget. "We really couldn't have done it without the amazing support we got from both MECLA and Mike Woo. Mike made this one of his top priority items for next year's budget and MECLA worked with us to open the doors of key City Council members," said Rofes. "The Center is extremely grateful for this support."



Mike Woo

SEX, DRUGS & ROCK 'N ROLL

Ask yourself:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do I need to get high on alcohol or drugs to cruise and have sex, because I'm shy and have a hard time meeting people when I'm sober? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do I crave sex so much that I use crystal or cocaine and stay out all night looking for and having sex? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do I sometimes have unsafe sex when I've been drinking or drugging, even though I know the danger and would like to stay safe? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Do I shoot up drugs with sex partners, sometimes sharing needles even though I know I could get AIDS? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do I try to control my drinking, but go out to the bars to cruise and lose control and get too drunk? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Do I need to use drugs to party when I go out dancing, and usually end up staying out all night at the bar? |

If you answered "Yes" to even one of these questions, it is likely that you have a substance abuse problem.

For many of us, drinking and drugging are tied in with sex and partying. We come to depend on the use of alcohol or drugs to loosen us up so we can have a good time and hopefully meet someone. The problem is that often we get carried away, and the social drinking or drug use turns into a substance abuse problem.

Some gay men can not imagine having sex without drinking or drugging first. When the urge to cruise hits, they are compelled to get high. But the drugs can interfere with sexual enjoyment, so it becomes an endless, unfulfilling search.

Because of AIDS, sex can become a dangerous thing when combined with excess alcohol or drugs. Our judgment can be affected so that we engage

in unsafe sex or share needles, even if we did not intend to.

As hard as it may be to imagine, sex and rock 'n roll can be just as fun without drinking or drugging. But it does take help. You can't do it alone. If you have a substance abuse problem that is tied to sex and partying, we urge you to get help for it. To ignore the problem could be deadly.

18th Street Services provides outpatient counseling and referrals to gay men with substance abuse problems. Our staff is gay. We understand your lifestyle and concerns.

There has never been a better time than now to be clean and sober. Sex and Rock 'n Roll can become fun for you again. Without the drugs.

18th Street Services

861-4898

Funding for this message provided as a public service by the CGBA Foundation.

Lesbian Rights Project Observes Decade of Service

Beginning in 1977 With a Small Grant, LRP Has Grown Into Major Rights Law Firm

by Dianne Gregory

When Roberta Achtenberg, an attorney for the Lesbian Rights Project, got the phone call from the woman whose recently deceased lover's parents were about to come over to pick up their grandson, she was able to help. Although it didn't turn out to be a happily-ever-after story — the grandparents eventually gained custody of their grandson — she was able to buy both the woman and child enough time to say their goodbyes and re-arrange their lives in an orderly fashion. But if there weren't such a thing as the Lesbian Rights Project, the story would not have turned out as well as it did.

The Lesbian Rights Project, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, was founded in 1977 when Donna Hitchens won a \$10,000 grant from the Berkeley Law Foundation "to provide legal assistance to low-income lesbians in cases where their sexual orientation presented a significant legal issue." Today it is not only the only public-interest law firm in the U.S. exclusively devoted to helping women who encounter legal problems as a result of their sexual orientation, but has also won several significant cases for gay men.

It has also grown dramatically, from one attorney whose primary job was to assist lesbian mothers, into a multi-service legal center with two attorneys, two law clerks, a fundraiser and support staff. The LRP shares space with Equal Rights Advocates, a non-profit, public interest law firm that concerns itself with cases on sexual discrimination, of which it is a subsidiary of sorts. Its funding partially is made up of 20 percent grants and 50 percent individual contributions. And LRP has a "strong and deep base of support in the community" according to Karen Strauss, fundraising coordinator of the Lesbian Rights Project. There are no client fees.

The LRP now offers assistance to individuals, attorneys, and community organizations in the areas of employment discrimination, housing, insurance, immigration and naturalization, military, donor insemination, and public accommodations, in addition to child custody child custody and visitation. It provides legal education, and community education.

Donna Hitchens has written the *Lesbian Mother Litigation Manual* (1982) and compiled *Lesbian Mothers and their Children: An Annotated Bibliography of Legal and Psychological Materials* (second edition, 1982), in addition to several journal articles. The Project has also published *Recognizing Lesbian and Gay Families: Strategies For Extending Employment Benefit Coverage and Lesbians, Gay Men and Employment Discrimination: An Annotated Bibliography of Cases and Law Review Articles*.

In addition, the LRP has participated in conferences on topics ranging from lesbians choosing to have children through donor insemination to lesbian and gay employment rights, and helps to train family court personnel as part of an ongoing effort to enable legal decision-makers to make informed choices on issues involving lesbians and gay men.

EXPANDING RIGHTS

The LRP also files amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs in cases involving, among other things, child custody and visitation, including one in the *Hardwick* case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

But primarily, the Lesbian Rights Project goes to court with cases that both challenge old laws and seek to make new law that ensure lesbian and gay rights. A few examples:

- The LRP has recently made history in American family law with the first two successful joint adoptions by lesbian couples. To the extent that openly lesbian and gay people have succeeded in adopting children before, they

have done so only as single parents, even if their intent was to raise the child on an equal basis with a same-sex lover or co-parent. In both cases the Department of Social Services knew the applicants were lesbians and the judges in both cases concurred that it would be "in the best interest of the child" to have two legal parents.

- In another LRP case a man was denied unemployment benefits when he quit his job to care for his lover, who was dying of AIDS. The state held that he was not a relation by blood or marriage and thus not eligible. In his ruling, Administrative Law Judge Robert P. Mason ordered the Employment Development Department to pay the claim because "even though . . . a blood or marital relationship did not exist, it is recognized that non-blood, non-legal relationships may be established which are as meaningful, if not more meaningful than relationships created by blood or the bonds of marriage."

- A mixed victory came when the First District Court of Appeals ruled that under certain circumstances a sperm donor may be declared the legal father of a child conceived through donor insemination, unless the sperm is provided to a licensed physician. Even though the LRP "lost" that case, the ruling also stated that women have a right to create a family of their own design. "Given the fact that they decided the wrong way, they said all the right things," Achtenberg noted.

- In an earlier case, *Rainey v. Civil Service Commission*, the Lesbian Rights Project successfully represented Denise Kreps when she was disqualified as an applicant for a Deputy Sheriff's position because she admitted during a lie detector test to a sexual relationship with a person of the same sex. Both an administrative law judge and the Superior Court ruled that Kreps's constitutional rights were violated when she was disqualified on the basis of her sexual orientation.

- And in *Hinman v. Dept. of Personnel Administration*, the Project sued on behalf of Boyce Hinman, a state employee, to obtain dental coverage of his family partner of 12 years, Larry Beatty. The Court of Appeal held that the policy of denying dental insurance coverage to family partners of lesbian and gay employees did not discriminate against homosexual employees, but that the employers benefit plan distinguished solely on the basis of marital status. In the court's view, gay people are simply part of the larger class of unmarried persons, all of whom are denied benefit coverage for their partners.

Even though cases like *Hinman* or the one involving paternity rights for sperm donors may be seen as losses to some, the Lesbian Rights Project continues into its second decade to enhance and increase the quality of life for all gay people. •



A woman tells about the pain of losing a child in a custody case. (Photo: Dianne Gregory)



Donna Hitchens

(Photo: Dianne Gregory)



Karen Strauss

(Photo: Dianne Gregory)

... considering how dangerous everything is nothing is really frightening.

—Gertrude Stein, 1937

A Silence Not Golden

For Deaf Gays, Challenge Is Great But So Is Their Determination

by Mary Richards

Within the gay community of San Francisco there is a group of people who live in a silent world. Yet their gestures and facial expressions are eloquent testimony to the intensity of their feelings. Although their numbers are small, there is no doubt about their energy, and their willingness to be involved and to share in the gay culture of San Francisco.

The people interviewed for this article cannot articulate their opinions in the same manner as the hearing, but with the support of interpreter Jay Wilson, recent winner of a Cable Car Award, they were able to communicate their feelings.

Jovan Ryg, a gay deaf man, says, "The hearing world should learn that deaf people are not necessarily handicapped. I prefer to be called deaf and not handicapped, because I'm able to do anything — there are no limitations."

"I feel that being deaf is a challenge," remarks Angelo Rosado, secretary of the Rainbow Deaf Society (RDS). "I can be involved with the deaf world as well as be involved with the hearing world. I grew up with my hearing parents, and to me it seemed like a normal family situation. But people outside said 'you're handicapped.' That's the pressure you feel."

Gayle DeLuca, who has only lived in San Francisco for the last year and a half, says that her deafness has made little difference to her enjoyment of city life. "I meet a lot of lesbians who want to learn sign language. Lesbians respect me a lot more than straight women do. They seem to be more enthusiastic about being involved with me and taking me out to have a good time."

Members of the Rainbow Deaf Society have their own good time

every Friday night at Castro Station, where they meet informally to gossip and share the week's adventures. RDS is one of the oldest groups in San Francisco which offers support and promotes activities for gay deaf people. The organization has a 14-year history, but has yet to raise enough money to have a private space for its functions.

Angelo Rosado has been a member of RDS for 13 years and served a three-year term as president. "We were not a non-profit organization until just recently, and now that we have that status we can do fundraising. Hearing gay organizations have a lot of success with fundraising and financial support and there's a lot of cohesiveness there. We can share, and we expect to get out into the community and get involved."

Money, and specifically the lack of it, has been an ongoing problem. Any financial support that comes their way, Angelo says, "will be used for our future. We go to people's homes to meet and we want to have our own place, like an office. We could bring in expertise in the areas of counseling and employment opportunities for gay deaf people who have problems. Maybe there are older gay deaf people that can't go to college, they don't know how to get in. We can do some counseling and get them in, using interpreting services. We can help

other people as well. We want to be involved."

Because in one obvious aspect they are isolated from the rest of the gay community, being involved means a great deal to gay deaf people. Jovan Ryg was rejected by one of the major AIDS organizations because of the cost of an interpreter for his volunteer training.

"I was turned down," he says with evident distress. "I'm volunteering — I can do it — but they said we can't afford it. So I feel as if I'm left out. When they said no I felt like I was just kind of lost. What if this (AIDS) happened to me, who's going to help me? So far I've been helping other deaf people that no one has helped who have AIDS and I know how they feel."

Jovan remembers his roommate and friend, Ryan, who spent his last days in Coming Home

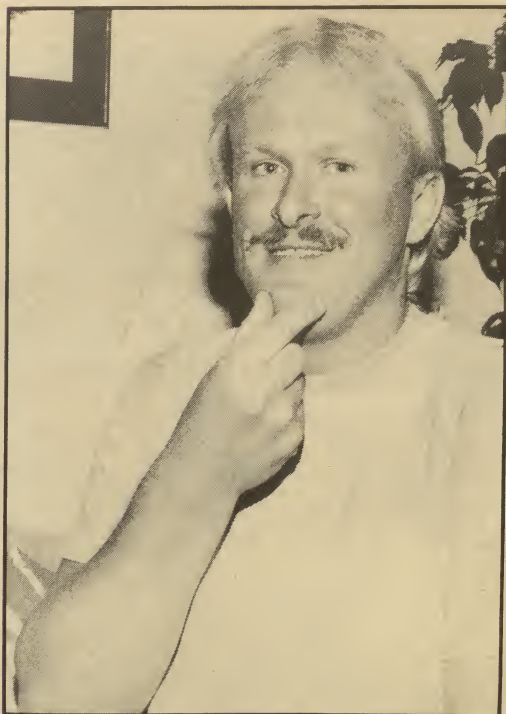


Angelo Rosado, former president of the Rainbow Deaf Society. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Hospice. Ryan knew that Jovan needed support. "Ryan was hearing but he had learned sign language," Jovan explains. "He got very angry. I sit there and I've got to deal with this," Jovan says. "I have no idea, so I'm just on my own. People don't understand how I feel, there's no one there."

"I know about four men in the Bay Area (who have AIDS)," Jovan confirms, "but there have been others in the past who have gone, of course. We found out that people were dying and we didn't know they had AIDS. They don't want to admit it. Most deaf

(Continued on page 33)



Jovan Ryg gives the sign for 'gay.' (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



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Ten Years Ago



(Photos: Rink)



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Gay Rights Came of Age in 1977

by Allen White

One decade ago, the gay movement came of age in San Francisco. The year was 1977, and the forces of Anita Bryant, Jerry Falwell, and John Briggs were being met by thousands of gay men and lesbians, all converging on San Francisco. Before the year was over San Francisco elected a gay public official, started a vibrant gay emporium, began the first openly gay marching band and saw the emergence of a major gay international star.

As Summer, 1977 came to the city, the Castro was thriving. The Elephant Walk bustled with thousands of young gay men who had moved to the area. The Midnight Sun, then located on Castro Street, seemed to always have a waiting line. In the Tenderloin, Oil Can Harry's was jammed with disco bunnies. Oil Can Harry's competed with the newly opened dance palace, Trocadero Transfer. In the Haight, hun-

dreds of people were discovering the I-Beam.

It was party time in the city.

Also on Castro Street was a camera shop operated by Harvey Milk. It became the center for gay political activity.

On June 21, 1977 Robert Hillborough, 31, was murdered in the Mission. The death of the gay man set off an explosion that mobilized thousands.

The political force was in full swing. In November, Milk became the first openly gay elected official in the City and County of San Francisco.

During the second week in June, 1978 a school teacher from Daly City started pinning flyers on the walls of gay bars throughout the city. It asked anyone who had ever played a musical instrument if they wanted to play in an

(Continued on next page)

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Ten Years Ago

(Continued from previous page)

all gay marching band. A rehearsal was held on the dance floor of the Trocadero Transfer.

The school teacher was Jon Sims. Under his direction, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was born.

On Gay Freedom Day, 1978, the band proudly and magnificently turned the corner off Spear to Market Street. Sims knew the band was a success as the crowd screamed and yelled their enthusiasm for this new performing arts force.

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band would grow in size to almost 150 musicians. The band won awards and was invited to march in other parades, such as the Chinese New Year Parade, the Columbus Day Parade, the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

As they marched, they became the personification of gay pride merged with main Street, U.S.A.

As the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was marching in the streets, another musical voice was becoming recognized on the dance floor.

He was black, he was gay, and he knew how to make music that would make people want to dance. His name was Sylvester. He had been a performer with a group called the Cockettes and he had become a favorite performer at the Elephant Walk.

Then Fantasy Records released "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real" and "Disco Heat"



Sylvester and Jeanie Tracy whoop it up at a parade celebration.

(Photo: Rink)

Sylvester became an overnight sensation. Seemingly everywhere was the music of Sylvester. It was on the radio, it was heard in bars across the city and across the nation. The San Francisco gay movement had its own record star. Thousands would make their way each year to Castro Street where they would listen to Sylvester and the Two Tons of Fun at the Castro Street Fair.

During those years, people stopped buying orange juice. What they did do was start shopping at a new store called Headlines. Andy Cramer had moved to San Francisco to meet people and have fun. Ten years ago, he opened up Headlines on Polk Street. Shopping became as much fun as going to a gay bar. There were colorful lights, the prices were reasonable, there was

dancing music, and there were hot men to meet. They worked behind the counter and they went shopping.

Customers could buy a pair of pants and find a person to get in them at the same time.

In the decade that followed, Headlines would expand to three locations and would become a statement of gay economic power

and also of gay acceptance in the city.

On Nov. 27, 1978 Milk and Mayor George Moscone, an ally, were murdered by Dan White at City Hall. Harvey Milk was dead, but his vision continues to live. His successor, Harry Britt came within 4,000 votes of becoming the first openly gay man to represent San Francisco in the United States Congress.

This Sunday, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band will be marching for the tenth time in the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. As the vision of Harvey Milk still lives, so does the vision of Jon Sims.

At the I-Beam on Haight Street Sylvester will take to the stage this Sunday at 9 p.m. He will be singing many of the hit songs he has recorded throughout the years. It will be a time for remembering and the performance of a star. Sylvester is now a major recording artist for Warner Bros. Records.

For the tenth year, the people will also be dancing at Trocadero Transfer. The annual Post-Parade Tea Dance begins at 5 with the performance of special guest star Claudja Barry.

San Francisco joins together to celebrate gay pride, reflect on a decade of history and look to a future of growth and maturity. ●

Laughter is by definition healthy.

—Doris Lessing, 1973

CRIR Endorses Molinari

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights endorsed John Molinari for Mayor of San Francisco at its meeting Thursday evening.

Molinari received 71 percent of the club's vote. The rules of CRIR state that a candidate must receive 60 percent of the vote for endorsement.

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights is the largest Republican club in San Francisco. Its members all received material prepared by all the candidates for mayor.

The endorsement is viewed as important by all the candidates. With the exception of Art Agnos, all candidates attended the endorsement meeting to state their position and answer questions from CRIR members.

John Molinari said, "I am honored to have received the CRIR endorsement. The club is part of a broad coalition I am building across the city and I value their support and look forward to their active participation in my campaign." ●

Stud Opens Thursday Night

The Stud will open tonight in its new location at 9th and Harrison Streets. The club will open at 5 p.m. with disc jockey Larry LaRue beginning at 8 p.m.

The Stud opened 21 years ago on Folsom Street and has continually been one of San Francisco's most popular gay bars.

In the last few weeks, the lights have been installed, the pool table is up and working, and the meat rack is in place. The dance floor will be twice the size of the former location. ●



refute the claim they are "martyrs" to the paths of glory. "We're a group of socially-minded men and women who enjoy life and bring a joy to helping others," they report in a brochure.

"We Serve is the motto of all Lions, but Castro Lions also have fun." ●

Lions

(Continued from page 6)

Lions is by invitation. Prospective members are asked to attend at least two meetings before applying for membership. Any active member can sponsor a candidate.

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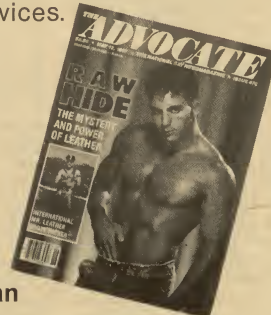
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The ADVOCATE The national news and lifestyle magazine for gay men

'Mom, Dad: I'm Gay'

Parents Group There to Help So Families Don't Become Strangers

by Gerard Koskovich

Rob Johnson told his mother after a last-minute grocery run for a family holiday dinner; they were in the parking lot of Town and Country Village in Palo Alto. Jamie Henderson told his father in the car on the way to the airport; he was heading back to school after a holiday visit to the small Mid-Western town where his parents lived.

For both young people, the basic words were similar: "I'm telling you this because I love you and want to share the important things in my life. I'm gay." For both parents, the initial reaction was shock and pain, followed by healing, change and growth that has brought them to a deeper understanding and love for their children.



(Photo: Rink)

Members of a local group find such stories quite familiar. Each has listened to other parents and children; each has experienced a revelation of homosexuality in his or her own family. The organization is Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), and it has operated a hotline and held open discussion meetings in Palo Alto — with one brief hiatus — since 1979.

The local P-FLAG is affiliated with groups throughout the U.S. to provide support for families confronting the isolation and anxiety that discovering a loved-one's homosexuality can create. As gay children and as parents of gay people, members of P-FLAG are uniquely qualified to understand the dilemmas such families face in a largely anti-gay society.

"When you have an assumption that your kid is heterosexual, and then you find out that they're not, the negative stereotypes that we all learn about homosexuality come up," said Rob Johnson's mother, Ruth Johnson, the wife of a Stanford professor. (To preserve her family's privacy, she asked to use a pseudonym; others quoted preferred to use their real names.)

"I was really shocked when Rob told me. I suddenly saw him in a new way. I imagined him with another man, and that was very distressing for me," Ruth recalled. "I'm sure it was a big

event for Rob to tell me, and he was hurt that he didn't get a warm response, but I simply couldn't give one at the time."

BLAME

For Tom Henderson, a corporate executive who now lives in Menlo Park with his wife Mitzi, his son Jamie's announcement created feelings of guilt and fear.

"As a father, your child's coming out raises an enormous number of questions, many of them threatening. There's the whole macho thing: How could my son be a fairy?" Tom said. "And you're certain you did something to cause this — so there's a lot of guilt. There's fear, too: you think, Who will carry on the family name? What will happen if other people find out? Will they blame us?"

Mitzi Henderson explained that "the basic reason this is hard for most parents is that they share the same homophobia that everybody else does in this society. They're convinced that homosexuality is something terrible and that their child will suffer because of it.

"To some people who come out of a conservative religious background, there's also a feeling that this is something sinful," Mitzi added. "They've been told all their lives that homosexuality is immoral and a matter of deli-

berate choice. They don't understand that their child's homosexuality is as natural and good to him as heterosexuality is to them."

According to Dr. Carlos Greaves, psychiatrist specializing in gay issues at Stanford's Counseling and Psychological Services who also has a private practice in Palo Alto, most parents experience a process of grieving after a child reveals his or her homosexuality.

"To suddenly find out something so crucial that they had never known can make the child seem like a stranger to them. The parents experience a sense of loss — as if the child they knew had died," Greaves explained. "Then they have to grieve the loss and come to accept the new person who remains, come to see that it is still the child they loved.

"A group like P-FLAG that creates mutual support for parents can be extremely valuable in this process," Greaves continued. "It's a complex and difficult adjustment for parents. Sharing their experience with others who have dealt with it and having others model the process can really lessen the pain."

ACCEPTANCE

Ruth Johnson agreed with Greaves's assessment. During an extended sabbatical with her hus-



band on the East Coast last year, she discovered a chapter of P-FLAG. Her involvement brought major changes, helping her toward acceptance of her son. She is now active with the local P-FLAG group.

"I was terribly nervous about that first meeting," Ruth recalled. "I went up to the door three times before I had enough nerve to go in! I've seen parents come to the Palo Alto group with the same feeling. And the immediate response is relief: Everyone here just looks normal; I'm not alone!"

A SURROGATE FAMILY

"P-FLAG was a place to educate myself and replace the stereotypes with real information. I've learned a lot there, read a lot, met and talked with a lot of parents and gay and lesbian young people," Ruth continued. "Because of this, I feel completely different than I did a year ago, when I couldn't even say, 'I have a gay son,' without getting a lump in my throat."

Mitzi Henderson, whose son Jamie is past-president of the Stanford Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association, pointed out that P-FLAG's discussion groups aren't for parents only: the group also helps gay people themselves with family-related issues.

"P-FLAG can offer a surrogate family for gay people whose family has rejected them or who don't know about them yet. It offers gay people a chance to discuss some of their concerns about family relationships. It can give them a chance to sound out what kind of reactions they might anticipate in telling their family," she explained.

Tom Henderson added that P-FLAG "may well be one of the few predominantly straight environments where a gay person is welcome by the very terms of the invitation."

Ruth Johnson summed up the group's goals and methods. "I don't think we have any agenda for people who come to us. There's no one right way to deal with this issue," she said. "And there's no expectation that you must march in a Gay Pride Pa-

rade and be on television — although some of us do decide to do that.

"The one goal of P-FLAG is to help parents who feel uncomfortable and feel distress to feel more comfortable," Johnson said. "And to help gay kids and their parents to have the best family relationships possible."

The Mid-Peninsula Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays holds its open discussion group at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the University Lutheran Church, 1600 Stanford Ave. (at Bowdoin) in Palo Alto; their 24-hour hotline number is (415) 854-0142.

Other P-FLAG Chapters in the greater Bay Area include: San Francisco, (415) 347-7985; San Jose (408) 270-8182; Oakland, (415) 547-4657; Marin, (415) 341-4196; and King City (408) 674-5108. For contact information on P-FLAG chapters elsewhere in California and across the country, call the Mid-Peninsula chapter.

Suggested Reading For Families

Gloria Guss Back, *Are You Still My Mother? Are You Still My Family?* (Warner Books, 1985). Paperback, \$7.95. A handbook for parents of lesbians and gay men. Among the topics: handling anger and guilt, telling family and friends.

Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward, *Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981). Paperback, \$6.95. Written by two mothers of gay children.

Carolyn Welch Griffing, Marian J. Wirth, and Arthur C. Wirth, *Beyond Acceptance: Parents of Lesbians and Gays Talk About Their Children* (Prentice-Hall, 1986). Hardback, \$16.95.

David K. Switzer and Shirley Switzer, *Parents of the Homosexual* (Westminster, 1980). Paperback, \$7.95. A guide to acceptance for Christian parents of gay people.

—G.K.

Many Will Have To Pay 'Fair Share'

SFHC Restricts Free AZT

by Tim Taylor

The San Francisco Health Commission adopted tough new financial screening procedures that will restrict free distribution of the drug AZT, which has been shown to prolong and improve the lives of people with AIDS. Under the new city standards, only the poorest patients who earn less than \$534 a month will be eligible to receive the drug at no cost. Others will have to pay a "fair share" of the therapy, according to city officials.

The decision was denounced by Ralph Payne of the Mobilization Against AIDS who said, "There is no such thing as a 'fair share' for patients who have to pay for experimental drugs. It's unfortunate that some people will have to make a choice between rent and life-prolonging drugs."

The Health Commission policy adopted a two-step procedure for potential candidates for AZT therapy. Each candidate will be screened to determine whether he or she meets clinical protocols, and then be screened to "determine his/her financial class and thereby his/her ability to fund the cost of the therapy," according to a Health Department memorandum distributed by Dr. David Werdegard, director of the city's Health Department. "Financial screening will result in the possibility of assessing the candidate a share of the cost of therapy."

In a marked departure from previous policy, the Health Commission will also require payment in advance for the hugely expen-



'There is no such thing as a 'fair share' for patients who have to pay for experimental drugs. It's unfortunate that some people will have to make a choice between rent and life-prolonging drugs.'

—Ralph Payne
(B.A.R. Photo: Brian Jones)

sive therapy which can cost an average of \$10,000 a year or more. San Francisco General Hospital's executive director Phillip Sowa has complained publicly about the financial burden on the hospital caused by people who avoid paying bills. As a result, the no-pay, no-AZT policy may be broadened to include other hospital services to avoid financial short-

falls at the public medical facility. Sowa was unavailable for comment.

The limits on the free distribution of AZT were dictated by the budget constraints imposed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein who set aside \$450,000 for AZT in her new \$17.3 million budget. Feinstein has called upon both the federal and state governments to provide more financial assistance for services during the AIDS epidemic. Her concerns were echoed by Payne who called the city's overall response to the health crisis "herculean." While Payne called the decision by the city to limit AZT a result of "the abject failure of the national health care system," he urged the city to pick up the cost of the drug until state and federal help could be marshalled.

Those who do not fall under the stringent income eligibility guidelines imposed by the city may have their share of the cost of AZT therapy paid for by either MediCal or private insurance. But city officials were unable to estimate how many ineligible people have no form of insurance coverage or government assistance and therefore would have to pay for the experimental drug out of their own pockets. The Health Commission asked the hospital officials to report back on the numbers of people who would lose treatments at a future meeting.

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Busby

(Continued from page 4)
on July 6.

"If we can get the coroner's office to look at this again," said Roe, "and they were to find that Busby's death was due to his beating, it could lead to a manslaughter charge against Rojas."

Hudson filed a complaint against the police department with OCC last December. OCC determined four months later that even though the police should have reported the attack, no sex orientation discrimination was involved. Roe said Hudson has been granted a new hearing by OCC on July 21.

OCC investigator Larry Shockey said that even if his office had sustained Hudson's complaint against the police, it would have led only to a disciplinary action against the officers at their commanding officer's discretion.

SEX SLURS

Shockey told B.A.R. that 11 complaints were brought to OCC in 1986 involving charges of sex slurs, which include slurs involving sexual orientation. According to Shockey, none had been sustained by his office. In all, 1,267 complaints were filed against the SFPD in 1986, 162 of these cases were investigated and only 19 of the complaints were upheld by OCC.

Hudson's claim against the city has an unfortunate twist for him. He filed the claim 103 days after the incident with Rojas and the police. According to Roe, city



Gary Busby

law requires that such claims be submitted within 100 days of the incident.

"Hudson waited for 103 days because we were waiting for a report from OCC on whether they were going to sustain Hudson's complaint," said Roe. "The city hasn't decided yet whether to accept his claim."

Roe had his own complaints about the working of the justice system in this case. "Every single bit of information we've gotten in this case has taken weeks of pestering on our part to get," he said. "If people in the system aren't covering up to protect someone, then they sure are giving a good impression of it."

According to Hudson, "My lover, Gary, was only 33 years old. I just want to see that justice is done."

Roe said that one of the two police officers involved with the Busby case has resigned. "He was a career officer," said Roe.



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Political consultant David Binder (left, with Greg Day) says there is more seriousness in gay politics. (Photo: James Dusch)

Gay Vote Stronger Than Ever Despite Drop In Numbers

Women May Be Key to Success at Polls; Gay Voters Visible in All S.F. Districts

by Ray O'Loughlin

The gay vote is finished. The gay vote is stronger than ever. In the past year, we have heard all manner of commentary analyzing the role of gay politics in San Francisco. According to some observers, the gay and lesbian community wields an enormous amount of power in City Hall. Others say the bloom is off the rose for gay power and that the gay community is in decline now that the halcyon days of 1970s liberation are over.

Where do we stand? Is San Francisco's gay community growing, declining, staying the same? Has our political clout increased or diminished in recent years? How do you measure this community? What has the role of women been in gay politics and what does the future hold for lesbian political activism? Will factors such as the proposed shift to district elections affect gay politics seriously and for better or worse?

The fact is that it is indisputable that lesbian and gay politics is an established force in this city and state. Reports of our political demise have been greatly exaggerated. We've shown our muscle by almost electing Sup. Harry Britt to Congress. We've shown our commitment to politics by organizing and winning the fight against Prop. 64, the LaRouche-inspired quarantine initiative on last fall's statewide ballot.

Behind those successes is much hard work. Today's politics is not so much fiery rhetoric of liberation as it is the exhaustive analyzing of voter registration rolls, precinct voting patterns and other factors to target the votes you need to win. The numbers on election day are only part of the story. It's all the numbers before the voting that make for success.

BY THE NUMBERS

Chris Bowman, a native San Franciscan, has been watching the gay community grow over the last decade. He's been an aide to Sen. Milton Marks, president of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, and is now a political consultant. Every election night you'll find him in City Hall poring over computer printouts of precinct returns.

One way to gauge the gay vote, he says, "is to do the arduous

'What it's going to do is pit gays against blacks or Hispanics. I'm not certain that that's going to be good for us.'

—Chris Bowman, on district elections (Photo: Rink)

task of attempting to identify gay voters in the neighborhoods, looking at single male households, and double male and double female households." He adds, "It's a fairly accurate device."

That data is then compared with precinct voting patterns revealing what neighborhoods turned out for past gay candidates such as Pat Norman, Paul Wotman, and Tim Wolfred.

Using those demographics, he estimates that in the West of Twin Peaks area of the city — the outer Sunset, Park Merced, St. Francis Wood — the electorate is 15 percent gay. Of those, he estimates that 20 percent are Republican.

Most observers peg the gay and lesbian vote at 60-70,000 out of a total voting population of 360,000 for San Francisco.

Has that number changed much in recent years? Bowman says he believes that migration into San Francisco by gays and lesbians has declined. "According to our data, the in-migration of gay people for 1982 through 1984 was only 3 percent for that three-year period. It was averaging about 5-6 percent a year prior



to that for almost an entire decade," he says.

That, coupled with the out-migration to the suburbs and to East Bay cities, causes him to conclude, "My suspicion is that the gay population is down somewhat and down in the (Castro) ghetto as well."

In 1979, the Duboce Triangle was the most heavily gay precinct in the city. Today it is less so. Part of that out-migration has also taken gays and lesbians out of the Castro-Duboce-Haight Street areas and into other parts of the city, making the gay vote less concentrated. Western Addition to Glen Park, the Mission to West of Twin Peaks, all show increases in gay and lesbian voters.

GAY VOTE STRONGER

"Looking at Britt's vote around the city," says gay broadcaster David Lamble, "it was very impressive through areas such as the Mission, even in more moderate areas. I was impressed at how spread out his vote was. And it wasn't all just a gay vote."

Nonetheless, Lamble still sees recent gay voter turnout as disap-

pointing. "If that was high turnout," he says about the April congressional election, "then is the whole gay vote really that large? That's the question I have."

David Binder, a market research analyst and political consultant, maintains that regardless of how the overall numbers may be changing, the gay vote is stronger.

"It may be that the actual numbers of gay voters have declined. But looking at the last two elections (November 1986, April 1987), the actual turnout of gay voters did increase," says Binder.

"I feel that as the AIDS crisis has hit, it's made us more politically conscious. During the 1970s and early '80s, people partied a lot, but now I think we're seeing our rights threatened. There's more seriousness in gay politics," says Binder. "You feel like you're really being attacked personally," he says, referring especially to the LaRouche Initiative.

CHANGING THE GAME

At present, gay politics seems well-integrated into the fabric of city politics. Would a different system, such as the proposed change to district election of the Board of Supervisors, help, hinder or make no difference for gay clout?

According to Lamble, district elections would benefit gay candidates. "The only way a gay can get into office in the present system is to be appointed by the mayor," he says.

With incumbents almost assured of re-election, "you can't start from scratch" under a city-wide system, he says.

According to David Binder, "Something needs to be done to drastically reduce the cost of campaigning so that it doesn't cost \$200,000 to be elected supervisor. That's one of the arguments for district elections." What's missing in the present system, he says, is "accountability."

Under any of the proposed plans, according to Bowman, all the districts would have at least a 10 percent gay vote.

With numbers like that, says Lamble, the gay vote could be pivotal in each district. "With a laundry list of candidates running in a district and nobody getting a majority, the gay vote even if only 10-23 percent, could put

a candidate into a run-off."

But Bowman is not sure that a district system is good for the gay community. "What it's going to do is pit gays against blacks or Hispanics. I'm not certain that that's going to be good for us. It'll be very divisive and very difficult for coalition building."

FUTURE SUCCESS

One of the exceptional factors in San Francisco politics is that women candidates have scored enormous successes in recent years. "There seems to be a bias in favor of women getting elected to office here," says Lamble, adding, "I think a lot of it has to do with the gay vote because not only lesbians and feminists but gay men too vote disproportionately for women."

He doesn't hesitate to say that "as far as gay candidates are concerned, the best chance that we have of electing candidates to public office is going to be with lesbians." He pointed to the near-success of two lesbian candidates: Pat Norman and Carole Migden.

The gay community can learn from the black community as well. With only 8 percent of the electorate — compared to 17 percent for gays — blacks have elected more than twice as many city officeholders, including two supervisors, a College Board member, a School Board member, and one BART director.

Why?

"Because the black community is more cohesive, they're not as splintered as the gay community," which has always prized its diversity, says Bowman. "Even though smaller in absolute numbers," he adds, "I think the black community has more clout than we do."

But that could be changing as lesbians and gay men see what a unified vote can do. Harry Britt's campaign for Congress may mark a turning point in gay politics for San Francisco. That campaign, despite a minor split in the community, was overall a unifying success.

In Binder's words, "In Harry's campaign, gay people really wanted to show that they could band together."

And though Britt isn't now in Congress, the gay and lesbian community came out a winner in that one.



Volunteer Michael Kelly (right) on the campaign trail for Harry Britt last April. (B.A.R. Photo: Brian Jones)

Making History

Gay/Lesbian History Group Uncovers Our Heritage

by Gerard Koskovich

"For the gay community, everything has always been hidden and lost," says Greg Pennington. "There's no sense of how gay people lived in the past. A lot of people just want to party and live the life, but some of us want to know how we got here and appreciate what the people before us had to go through in order to bring us where we are."

Uncovering this unknown heritage of the gay and lesbian community and bringing it to a wider public is the goal of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. Founded two years ago, the group has grown to over 200 members and has established a solid record of programs and activities.

A founding member and current secretary of the Historical Society, Pennington recalled the origins of the group during an interview in his San Francisco flat — crowded with files, magazines, posters, and paintings documenting gay life in the city.

"A number of us who were collecting joined forces with periodical collector Bill Walker and with members of the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Historical

Project, including historians Allan Bérubé and Eric Garber. The group sent out notices to over 200 community organizations calling a public session to discuss the possibility of a formal historical society.

"Out of that meeting at the San Francisco Public Library in March 1985, the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society was born," Pennington said. "We decided that our object would be to preserve, promote, and uncover gay and lesbian history."

According to historical society co-chair Paula Lichtenberg, the organization is not strictly academic; it seeks instead to play a unique and active role in the lesbian and gay movement.



Paula Lichtenberg and Greg Pennington

(Photo: Steve Savage)

"We have a political mission," Lichtenberg remarked. "We're not just living in an ivory tower. We want to have out gay people and gay history everywhere, so the straight community can't say, 'We don't know gay people; they don't matter.' We're making history, not just preserving it."

Involvement in the historical society "can be a real source of pride," she continued. "Now, in the times of AIDS, a lot of people are thinking about the importance of recording our experience. As long as people remember you, you're not gone. This kind of historical work keeps people alive in our memory."

According to Lichtenberg and

Pennington, the historical society has adopted a broad range of activities to further its goals. The group publishes a quarterly newsletter that includes original research papers, reprints of historical documents, columns of organization happenings, a calendar of history-related events, and other features.

The historical society also sponsors public programs: scholarly lectures, talks by movement pioneers, and documentary exhibits. Recent events include historian Will Roscoe's presentation on a nineteenth-century Native American transvestite, a panel of participants in 1967 demonstrations against anti-gay discrimina-

tion by the federal government, and window displays at the Walt Whitman Bookshop.

Establishing an archive of Northern California gay and lesbian history is a primary object of the historical society, according to Pennington. The group is proceeding slowly at present, working to acquire storage space, a computer for cataloguing, preservation materials and other necessities for a highly professional operation.

"We need to have everything representative of our community," Pennington said of the projected archive. "That includes

(Continued on next page)

Finding a Common Heritage

Why I Study Lesbian and Gay History

by Gerard Koskovich

One of my favorite pastimes as a boy was listening to older family members reminisce. My maternal grandfather in particular never failed to oblige me with tales of the past.

"I remember back in the 'teens," he would say in a voice still clear and lively. "I was working as a teamster in St. Louis. When winter came along, sometimes the streets got so slippery from the ice that the horses could barely stand up!"

"Then I came out to California. The work was good and the weather was good, so I decided to stay. I met your grandmother and we got married. Times were rough, what with the depression, but somehow I kept my job and we kept the family together."

Stories like this first aroused my fascination with history. How much things had changed in the fifty years since my grandfather had been young. His words conjured a far-off time before automobiles, a far-away place beyond my native Southern California sunshine — a world almost unimaginably distant and strange.

But woven through the changing details of the past in these and other family stories were enduring lessons for the present: life is difficult, but you carry on; you work hard, find a spouse, settle down; you build a family and look forward to telling grandchildren of your own a story or two.

Like any good son of the working class, I could see struggling to earn my keep; but I could not imagine choosing a wife and joining the slow climb toward bourgeois respectability. Even as a child, I sensed that my family's shared history held few lessons for me — because I

knew already that I loved others of my own sex.

Gay men and lesbians did not exist in my grandfather's stories. His cycle of shared lives and common hopes made no room for my dreams. Like the vast majority of young people with unspoken gay feelings, I believed myself isolated in time and space, alone on a journey unmarked by the milestones of past lives.

Over ten years after coming out, I know better. Gay men and lesbians do have a heritage, but much like the physical validation of our sexuality, we must search for it and create it by our own effort. The sense of a place in the cycle of human endeavor that straight people absorb from family stories, we must learn from history.

My introduction to the gay past came in 1978, on my first visit to Castro St. In 1978: I discovered Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History*. Poring over the documents there, I found a path that combines for a common heritage. I became — and remain — an ardent researcher of the history of homosexuality.

I have had the privilege in

(Continued on next page)

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A registered dietitian discusses the role of nutrition in the care of AIDS patients. A physician specializing in the treatment of AIDS will be present to answer audience questions.

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'Heritage of Pride' Theme of NY Parade

Heritage of Pride, the organizers of New York's annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Day March and Rally, have announced the Grand Marshals and Keynote Speakers for Pride Day 1987, the 18th Annual Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Pride, to take place June 28. Gay and human rights activists Karen Thompson and Rev. John J. McNeil, S.J., will lead the over 100,000 marchers, following the lavender line from Columbus Circle, down Fifth Avenue, to Sheridan Square. They will also be the keynote speakers at the rally afterwards.

Both Thompson and McNeil are involved with battles against institutions — institutions that are depriving them of their rights to love and speak freely. Thompson is fighting for the right to see and help her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who was severely injured in an accident and is bed-ridden and unable to speak. Fr. McNeil is fighting the Roman Catholic Church, which dismissed him from the Jesuit order for his scholarly writing on homosexuality and Catholicism.

For four years, Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski of Minnesota lived together, paid premiums on life insurance policies that listed each other as beneficiaries and wore the rings they exchanged. On November 13, 1983, Sharon was severely injured in a car accident and was brain damaged and comatose. Thompson, who studied physical therapy in college and whose Ph.D. work was in the psychology of sport, in the motivation for learning, which is the key to work with brain injured patients, provided physical support, talks, massages and bathing.

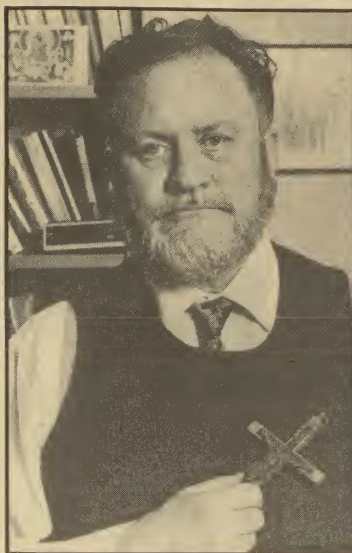
Slowly, Sharon began to come out of her coma. Sharon's parents began to wonder why Thompson spent so much time with their daughter. On the advice of the hospital psychologist, Thompson wrote Sharon's parents and told

them the truth about their relationship. Since then, Thompson has been involved in a protracted legal struggle with Sharon's parents for guardianship.

Thompson was committed to protecting Sharon's rights to recovery, feeling she has the qualifications and compassion to aid that recovery, in addition to insuring their rights as a couple.

Karen Thompson, now a physical education professor at St. Cloud State University, has brought charges of negligence against Sharon Kowalski's father. She is traveling across the country to gain support and to help people understand that her fight is not just a gay and lesbian issue, but a human rights issue and, particularly, an issue of the disabled.

According to Thompson, "The precedent that's being set in this case is that a human can be kept from having any say in what's happening to her, it's establishing case law that could be used not only against gay and lesbian couples and unmarried heterosexual couples living together but against every single human being, as well. In one split-second any of us could be Sharon Kowalski. We could be disabled through accident or illness, and this case could be used to take our rights away from us."



Rev. John T. McNeil and Karen Thompson.

"The last time I saw Sharon," Thompson says, "she typed out to me, 'Help me, Karen. Get me out of here.'" That was two years ago. Sharon is still in Leisure Hills Health Center.

The Rev. John J. McNeil was a member of the Jesuit order for 38 years. He is a moral theologian and psychotherapist, living and working in New York City. In 1973, McNeil founded the New York chapter of Dignity, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics. He became headline news in 1976 when he published a positive and carefully argued theological appraisal of homosexuality entitled *The Church and the Homosexual*, published with the permission of his religious superiors.

Three years later, however, the Vatican ordered that permission

rescinded and forbade McNeil to speak on or publish about homosexuality.

For ten years, he faithfully obeyed, continuing only to practice psychotherapy with his gay and lesbian clients. In 1985, after McNeil spoke before Dignity's national convention, the Vatican ordered him to refrain from dealing with the homosexuality community in public or private. Because of his psychotherapy practice ministering to many gays and lesbians, the order was effectively denying him his livelihood.

On October 31, 1986, the Vatican issued guidelines to the bishops of the Roman Catholic Church on the pastoral care of the homosexual community. The document called the homosexual condition "intrinsically disor-

dered" and, essentially, ordered bishops to oppose gay rights legislation. Fr. McNeil challenged the letter's morality, describing the letter as "cruel, mean-spirited and violent."

On January 28, Fr. McNeil was informed that he had been dismissed from the Jesuit order, on the grounds of his public dissent from the Church's teaching on homosexuality. Fr. McNeil is challenging this decree, "based on my perception that (the Church's) present teaching and pastoral practices have caused enormous amounts of unjust suffering among gay people. Consequently, I felt obliged in conscience to bring that fact to the attention of the Church and request a reconsideration of its teaching and pastoral practices..."

Heritage

(Continued from previous page)

this work of meeting and interviewing many lesbians and gay men of my grandfather's age. One thing strikes me forcefully about these people: they have faced astounding hardships as lesbians and gay men and have emerged with dignity and integrity. By their example, they teach that gay life can be difficult, but you carry on.

Men and women of this sort are my grandparents of affinity; they form a living tie to the history that holds immediate lessons for me. Preserving their voices, understanding their place in the wide context of culture, and passing on the wisdom of their experience are among the basic goals of research in lesbian and gay history.

Knowing the gay lives marked in history — lives full of courage, love, and friendship — I do not fear the lonely old age that homophobes envision for us. I look forward instead to a splendid antiquity, telling my grandchildren of choice about the glorious days of Gay Liberation, the heroic struggle against AIDS, and all the tragedies and triumphs of life in the twentieth century.



History

(Continued from previous page)

pornography, it includes drag, it includes S & M. It's not up to archivists to judge what's important: that's the job for historians who will use these things for their research."

The historical society's archival collections already include several significant groups of documents, Pennington said. Among the items are hundreds of posters for community events, nearly 30 complete runs of gay and lesbian newspapers and magazines dating back to the 1950s, and memorabilia from defunct bars and bathhouses.

According to Pennington, the majority of the collection is open to researchers by appointment. Duplicate runs of periodicals are available at the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Membership in the Historical Society is open to all interested individuals. Most members are from San Francisco, the East Bay and the North Bay, Pennington said, but the groups hopes to increase its Peninsula and South Bay membership. Lichtenberg noted that over 40 percent of the members are women.

"We've had a problem doing outreach to the ethnic minority communities," Pennington added. "We've had programming focusing on blacks and American Indians; we haven't had any pro-



gramming about the Asian or Hispanic communities yet, but we'd like to.

"A history is not complete unless it has the experience of all the different races and ethnic groups included," Pennington said. "We're trying to make the historical society significant for all people in the community."

According to Lichtenberg and Pennington, the organization has several public programs ongoing and upcoming. A documentary exhibit on the U.S. government's treatment of gay people is on display in the lobby of the San Francisco Federal Building (450 Golden Gate Ave.) today and tomorrow (June 25 & 26).

Tomorrow evening, Friday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m., the historical society will present a talk by movement veteran Harry Hay, founder of the Mattachine Society; the event will take place at the Eureka Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. in San Francisco (admission \$5; free to Historical Society Members).

Membership to the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society is \$30 (sustaining), \$15 (regular), and \$6 (low income). Write to P.O. Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142. For more information, call (415) 441-1128.

Kiss

(Continued from page 18)

My friend became noticeably nervous and responded by saying yes, if we make it quick and then run in our opposite directions. Though I wanted to shout, I instead laughed and explained that if one could not savor the moment it simply isn't worth it and went on my not so merry little way.

What exactly was he afraid of, I thought as I made my way back to my office. I doubt that a crowd would have gathered around us to either applaud our bravery or cast stones (or shopping bags) at our openness. Had this scene been performed in an earlier time in my life I possibly could have been more understanding and simply brushed it off, but nowadays I thought it to be senseless.

My friend's refusal of a public kiss placed one more brick in the wall that gays continue to build around our supposed desires of living life like everyone else.

All has not been painted in gold since my arrival in San Francisco but there has been gold dust sprinkled here and there. I have met and made new friends (though one has since been lost due to unnecessary jealousy), met and lost potential boyfriends (you know who you are!), revitalized friendships with two whom I knew in Washington now living here, embarked upon an adventurous career, and even made my drag debut last Halloween in the

Castro (and yes, I was stunning).

The simple things in life have even been better for me here. How surprised and delighted I was to discover that cala lilies grow in the wild and can either be picked from your garden or bought for as little as 50 cents per stem. In Washington these flowers, my favorites, were a true luxury costing anywhere from \$8 to \$10 per stem. And please, never let me hear anyone refer to them as weeds.

Happy Anniversary to me. And what a year it has been. I have run the gamut of living like a pauper to living like a queen (I mean the real kind!). From desperately digging through my pockets for change to afford a second cappuccino to sipping vintage champagne and tooting about town in a limousine. From dining at Trader Vic's with more champagne to the next night of swallowing my pride and bitir into a Big Mac. What a life!

Stereo Plus To Benefit AIDS Fndtn

On Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, Stereo Plus will donate 10 percent of all sales to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Last year, Stereo Plus donated approximately \$2,000 to the foundation.

Please stop by Friday and/or Saturday and help Stereo Plus help the foundation with its work.



Gayle DeLuca shows how to use a telephone for deaf people. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Silence

(Continued from page 25)

people would keep it a secret because they know they're not going to get help. They get denied services and they just go ahead and die quietly."

Angelo and Jovan are aware that lack of AIDS information is a serious problem for gay deaf men throughout the country. "I in

San Francisco," Jovan says, "we feel safe here, but when people come here you have to tell them. We've had the experience, we're lucky. But if we lived in another city it would be different. Deaf people are the last ones to learn."

General services for the deaf have improved in the last few years, but they still have difficulty with things the hearing take for granted. "It's frustrating," Gayle acknowledges. "I get peo-

ple to help me if I get stuck. I get an insurance letter and there's a big word and I don't understand it and I'm out. Most of the time if I respond to something I just guess."

Angelo feels that there are enough services for the deaf, but speaks of another, more serious problem that they face — lack of jobs. "Gay hearing people have their businesses and we'd like to work for them, but they don't want a deaf person. The deafness should have nothing to do with it. As gay people we should be helping each other, no matter what our hearing status is. It's very frustrating to get work. They live on social security and welfare. They have to ration their money."

"Services used to be awful, we didn't have phone access," Jovan notes. "In the last decade it's actually started getting better. With closed captioning on TV, deaf people are beginning to think that they're more involved, but actually we're not. It's still a hard life — even just little token things."

To imagine the past may sometimes be too painful for the present, but Stonewall evokes expressions of delight from both Jovan and Angelo. "Stonewall impressed me because that started it. If that didn't happen where would we be — we'd still be struggling," states Jovan.

"Now I'm involved in things. Being deaf gay I thought I was the only one in the whole country! I was the only deaf gay person in the world! It opened doors for me and I was relieved. Stonewall, thanks a lot for that happening."

Angelo remembers the past as a way of appreciating the present. "Before Stonewall most of the gay deaf people kept very isolated and would just go to visit each other's homes. We had to have our own little orgies. When we were out in the mainstream we had to behave like we were straight and we were very, very careful. We didn't tell our parents — we didn't tell anybody. There was no word mentioned, we just behaved."

"More than anywhere else, gays and lesbians here have influenced most of the country politically. We have the media, we have the political strength, we're very open here. There's more cooperation in San Francisco. All of us have our freedom now, so it's very beautiful."

AIDS Hotline

(Continued from page 4)

PG&E workers about AIDS prevention.

Mattox supervises licensed counselors (the AIDS Hotline volunteers are not professional counselors) who also assist PWAs. They debunk the familiar myth that AIDS may be contracted through casual contact on the job.

PG&E, among other trendsetting Bay Area companies, has also imported experts to speak to employee forums in order to negate any confusion or hysteria about AIDS transmission.

The focus now, however, is upon AIDS prevention.

"We have to eliminate the high risk behavior and think about how to act (sexually) more responsibly," Mattox said, indicating that the latest information about AIDS is routinely passed along to PG&E employees, especially through videos.

An integral part of AIDS education is the series of noontime panel discussions open to all employees that discuss AIDS treatment and the impact of AIDS on the family, notably children.

Mattox said the PG&E approach to the AIDS crisis was progressive and kept pace with the demands of a ruthless, uncompromising disease.

"We're unique," he said. "We've been at it long before other companies ever had an AIDS policy at all. We're pleased we've been mentioned as a model for others to follow."

Quinn Again Denounces Anti-Gay Violence

San Francisco—Archbishop John R. Quinn has re-issued his letter denouncing violence toward gays, originally published in 1984. The Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission sent the letter June 9 along with an introductory memorandum to the seven deans of geographical groups of parishes for dissemination among all priests.

Because of continued violence against gay people, says the memo to the letter, "As Catholics committed to the way of Christ, we must denounce violence in all its forms, especially when it is directed at human persons whether they be of a different color, religion, or, in this case, sexual orientation."

"I am writing this letter to you," begins Quinn's letter, "in light of the increasing violence against homosexual persons."

"I ask you to communicate to the priests and those who collaborate with them in roles of leadership and responsibility the utter incompatibility of such acts of violence with a witness to the Gospel. Nothing can justify these attacks on homosexual persons and the church must clearly

repudiate all such acts."

Loyalty to church moral teaching is not an excuse for violence, says Quinn. "Our role as priests is a difficult one. We must be faithful to the moral teaching of the church concerning homosexual acts. At the same time we must unfailingly have the compassion and kindness of Christ in our pastoral service. Thus we know and experience that constant tension between our role as teacher and our role as pastor. The difficulty, of course, lies in being faithful to both."

"It is not enough for us to condemn violence. We have the arduous task also of building up humanity in justice, dignity and freedom according to the plan of God," advises the Archbishop. ●

Dignity—We're Here For Good!

On Sunday, June 28, the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade will kick off Dignity's response to the visit of Pope John Paul II. The contingent from Dignity will feature marchers and banners from all 12 Dignity/Region Nine groups in California and Nevada. Also featured will be a total of 21 banners and flags, a float with live music, and thousands of balloons bearing the slogan: Dignity—"We're Here for Good!"

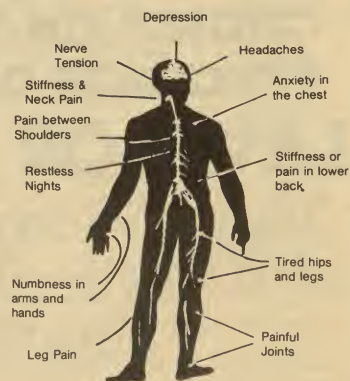
Dignity, an organization of gay/lesbian Catholics, their families and friends, has been the target of attack by the Vatican. A pastoral letter was issued in Oc-

tober of last year condemning all homosexual activity and calling on bishops to expel Dignity groups from church property. To date, 13 chapters have been forced out of church property. Dignity will continue to minister to gay/lesbian Catholics, speak out against oppression of minorities, and promote justice regardless of our meeting place and oppression from church leaders. The upcoming visit of Pope John Paul II to San Francisco and oppressive acts by church leaders gives Dignity, and others, the opportunity to publicly condemn all forms of oppression of gay/lesbian people. ●

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'You Will Always Be The Rainbow In My Heart'

A Story of Two People In Love

by Mary Richards

He wore that heavy alpaca-lined coat to the party and we laughed at him because he wore it the entire evening. Shy with strangers, unsure of himself, Neil stood out in the crowd. Soon, we were going everywhere together, and gradually, he became the person I was to know and love until I lost him.

He came out to visit me when I lived in San Francisco in 1972, but it was the trip last year which was to be the special one. He called that September to say he was planning to again visit me, and the city that accepts everyone.

But before he made it, he called to tell me that he had been diagnosed with AIDS — and that the medicine prescribed by his doctor had turned him a delicate shade of pink. Even with our shared fears, we still hoped he could make the trip. We laughed, and I told him that his new color was fine — San Francisco had a special place in its heart for pink people.

But as the days passed into a cold November and we kept in close touch, I knew he was never coming out to see me — he was never going anywhere again, as long as he lived. Each time he called I used to make notes. Now, looking back on them, they present a sorry litany of medical terms, bodily quirks, little agonies he was going through.

It was all getting worse, week by week. It was becoming obvious to me he was going fast, faster than I could ever think possible, even having experienced the deaths of the men I assisted in Shanti.

But if there was depression about his state of health, at least

there was one sustaining hope: he had a wonderful, loving family. I remembered their huge parties: the tables heaped high with food of every kind, the hours of socializing and all the warmth that an endless array of brothers and sisters could provide. I remember thinking: at least, throughout all the pain that's coming, he will have them by his side.

And in early December came the call that I knew heralded the beginning of the end. He had been hospitalized, the trip that was to have been his, would now be mine.

Arriving in Florida at midnight, I went straight to the hospital, knowing they would not refuse admission to someone who had traveled 3,000 miles to be with a friend. They let me in, of course. It was silent, everyone was sleeping. I tiptoed to Neil's bed and started to cry.

"It's Chickie," I said. "I love you."

He looked up, his eyes unable to focus or really see any longer. He began to cry, saying, "Chickie ... Chickie, I love you too."

His room was at the end of the hall and he was paralyzed, alone, unable even to use the buzzer to call a nurse. I thought he would die that night. His eyes were rolling back in his head, his mouth was so full of mucus he could hardly swallow. I stayed with him then, rising every hour to wet a face cloth and let the water drip into his throat.

He awoke in the morning and seemed much better. It was as if he had come back from death, had been resurrected. One of the nurses I met later that week expressed amazement that he was still living. She had left the ward that night and never thought she would see him alive again. He was alive, yes, but in a body which had betrayed him.

I asked him how he felt. He said, with irony and a slight smile, "It leaves much to be desired."

The hospital staff brought a fold-up cot to his room, where I would be allowed to sleep, and share the last few days of his journey. He would wake at night and say, "Chickie, are you there?"



Neil.

"Yes, yes."

"Good, I don't feel afraid."

Before we went to sleep I would make sure he had everything he needed and he would say, "Am I all tucked in and snuggly?"

"Yes, you are, my love." I had learned how to feed a person who is blind, and he liked that.

I wondered where the rest of his family was, why they were not with him. One day he began to weep and said, "Chickie, I've got so many brothers and sisters. They should be here to share the burden with you and my mother." His mother had been in Florida for a month, staying in his apartment, watching him decline each day, becoming weaker and more debilitated. Now it was only she, and I, and his few friends who would try to visit after their day's work. Where, indeed, were the other members of Neil's large and loving family?

Snug and safe and scared in their homes in New Jersey. So afraid of contagion that when he had gone back for a last trip, with the little strength he had, he told me they kept their children from him. They said it was impossible for him to return home to New Jersey from his Florida residence: there were no hospitals in the area that would admit an AIDS patient.

His mother was in shock over the situation. Now, when she, as well as Neil, needed the comfort and solace of loved ones, they were absent: were they only able to love when the going was good?

Even love has its excuses, and they had theirs. Money, there was no money to come: Neil would have to die without them. I told them about the gay community in San Francisco and what I had seen them do for their friends who were dying with AIDS. I had seen the gay community be more of a 'family' than her family would ever be.

Neil's mother and I had many talks during those long days and nights in the hospital. She spoke of his last trip home. He had to tell the family he had AIDS, and 'confess' to her he was gay. Love, lady she is, in her 80s, when he told her he was gay she said, "So what — you're not the only one!" She adored him: he was the youngest, her favorite, her love did not judge.

As the time came closer to Christmas, I sought counsel from a source derided and ridiculed by me in the past — the Bible. I had brought our gay newspapers from San Francisco to show Neil, and

would read a bit to him from time to time. But what did he care about Castro Street, he would never see it, never share it with me. Then I thought of the Bible and one night began to read. Here was the closest thing to the eternal within our reach.

So, Neil and I had our Christmas after all. I said to him I had found something he might want me to read and laughed a little at my sentimentality. Would he want to hear some passages from the Bible? He hardly ever spoke now, every word was an effort. He said, "Yes."

I read the part from the Corinthians about love, which is so expressive and alive in its beauty; the 23rd Psalm, to me, the perfect psalm; and lastly of the birth of Christ, up until the first Sermon on the Mount. It speaks about forgiveness; I knew then it was meant for Neil to hear, that he was living to work through his particular forgiveness in the time he had left. And I knew God had not abandoned us to travel this journey alone — there was grace and mercy for us, still.

And on Christmas day a tiny tree and teddy bear were brought to Neil.

Throughout those last days Neil's legs were in constant pain, as was his neck; I would give him what he called his "rubs." I don't think it helped much, but it gave me pleasure to touch him and soothe his dry, thin limbs. A handsome man, he was still beautiful even as death approached. He always had trouble taming his thick, black, curly hair; now it was soft, and smooth, and silver. As the days passed, he became more distinguished in appearance, all his features sharpened: high cheekbones, straight Roman nose.

I kept thinking: you elegant man, I love you so dearly. You will always be the rainbow in my heart.

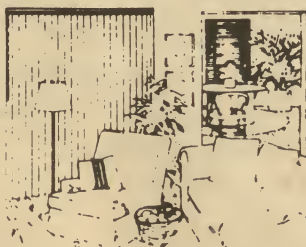
I can't describe the feeling, but I can record it here to remember the ultimate perfidy of those who profess love and have nothing to give. I said to him, "Are you afraid?"

He whispered softly, "No."

I will end this odyssey of life and death with Neil's denial of fear, for it remains a comfort to me. At the last, death is conquered: there is no fear. Ugly, destructive handmaiden to the Imminent One, your power is diminished, banished. Ultimately, you become powerless in the face of hope and love. ●

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"MAVIS"

Marc (Marvin) Sterling
April 17, 1928 - June 15, 1987

In fond memory of our dear friend, Mavis, who died peacefully in his sleep of heart failure after watching a Hollywood musical on TV.

Mavis was diagnosed last year with A.L.S. (Lou Gehrig's disease) and Alzheimer's.



He suffered a rapid decline, but always remained a "Star." Even at the convalescent home, he was called "Hollywood" by his new fans. He painted all the ladies nails with clear polish.

He is remembered for his many contributions to the gay community for the past 25 years — Tavern Guild, S.I.R., the Cockettes, Tricycle Races, Gay Day Parades, and countless functions where he entertained us with his own special comedy style unique to Mavis alone. He was a hooper, a singer, drag artiste, clown, and a hilarious Master of Ceremonies. In his

time, he was top bartender in a number of famous bars of San Francisco in the 1960s: the Capri in North Beach, the great Golden Cask, and the N'Touch on Polk Street.

When Mavis was there, it was a party.

In later years, Mavis worked for AMTRAK on the Chicago-Frisco run, and the stories of Mavis as a Cocktail Steward on the railroad are already legendary. He developed his skills in stained glass, won an award for his work in the San Francisco Stained Glass Show. Like his compositions in shimmering glass, his life was many-faceted, saucy reds, sun yellows, mauves, hues, textures.

He is a San Francisco treasure and is mourned by all who knew and loved him.

Michelle said it the best for all of us: "Mavis was fun." ●

Michael McDowell

10/25/50 - 6/17/87

In memory of Michael McDowell who died at his home on Wednesday night, June 17, with his lover at his side. His battle with AIDS was mercifully, short. Michael lived and loved fully to the end and faced his death with courage and repose.



Michael was an artist whose creativity was boundless. His artistic pursuits included painting, design, origami, papier mache sculpture and furniture design and construction. To all of these disciplines he brought energy and innovation which always excited those who knew him.

Originally from Illinois, Michael moved to San Francisco in the early 1970s. He attended the California College of Arts and Crafts and acquired many close and loving friends in his adopted home.

According to his wishes, Michael's ashes will be scattered by his lover at Mt. Tamalpais and on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific in Mendocino. A memorial will be held in Golden Gate Park at a later date.

Michael is survived by his lover, Larry; many dear friends including Tommy, John, Larry and Hank; his beloved cousin, Donna; his father; his Aunt Thelma; his brothers, Jim and Larry; and his faithful cat, Picket.

Michael's loved ones would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of S.F. Hospice and S.F. General Hospital Ward 5A for their love and care. ●

James Diehl

'Jimmy Joe'

The "Doctor Doolittle" of Vashon Island, WA died at his home on May 17.

Jim was an often visitor to the San Francisco Bay Area and worked at the Ambush for a while. He was known and loved by many for his wit, loving nature, and unending kindness. He will be truly missed and his magic remembered always. ●

Consuelo Thuesen

'Connie'

Connie Thuesen died on June 12 in a Petaluma rest home. For more than 40 years, she was the Grande Dame and Doyenne Extraordinaire of the Geary/Larkin area in San Francisco.

A loving friend to a vast number of San Francisco's gay men, she was 90 years old upon leaving this existence. She leaves behind a multitude of friends who look forward to meeting her again (should Shirley MacLaine be right).

And if not, what the heck: it was grand, Connie! ●

David McManis

David McManis, 36, died of AIDS at his home in San Francisco on June 14. He was an artist and graphics designer whose works were displayed at numerous galleries in San Francisco, Denver, and Aspen. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Colorado State University in 1973, and headed a design firm in San Francisco. Among his commissions



were designs for the International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival posters for several years, as well as works for many major companies. He was also an officer of the San Francisco Hiking Club, and designed their

logo.

During his year-long illness, David was supported by his many friends, and by his family. His parents, Rose and Erwin, and his sister, Rosemary, were with him at his death.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the Hartford Zen Center, 57 Hartford St., San Francisco. All of David's friends and associates are welcome to attend. ●

Wm. "Lary" Carter

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service for the late William "Lary" Carter on Saturday, June 27, at 12 noon, at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond, San Francisco.

Mr. Carter died of throat cancer in Santa Rosa on May 27. ●

Cal Ballard

On June 2, Cal Ballard, a long-time resident of San Francisco, died in Denver, his home during the past several years. After a year-long battle with AIDS, which Cal fought with courage, hope, and dignity, he succumbed to complications. Cal's many friends in San Francisco and Denver miss him, love him, and we celebrate his life. Cal was a friend of Bill Wilson for almost five years. Additional information is available from Mike Gold at 661-5281. ●

Bill "Nina" McDowell

10/28/54 - 6/5/87

Bill died after a short bout with AIDS. He was very active in the gay community, working with the Court system, and helped to raise money for the many charities in San Francisco.



He was always there and loved by many. He is survived by his mother Maureen of Bellvue, Nebraska, and sisters Daphne and Melissa of Omaha, Nebraska, and his friend and lover of nine years Jim Ross.

Bill was a true friend who walked in when the rest of the world walked out. ●

Gary W. Merle

Our dear friend Gary William Merle passed from this life early Wednesday morning, June 17, at Davies Medical Center after a valiant 18-month battle with AIDS. Born in Attica, NY July 21, 1934, he had been a San Francisco resident since January 1974.



He is survived by his mother and father, Violet and Howard Merle, and sister Mary Ann Kirby of Attica; his brother Ron Merle of Elba, NY; and his loving friends Carol Wegener and Robert Schatz of San

Francisco. Thanks to Ralph Earnest who helped Gary immensely through his illness. Thanks also to his many friends, and his employer and colleagues at Jackson, Tufts, Cole & Black, for their love and support. Thanks to Dr. Steve Mehalko and the fourth floor nursing staff at Davies for their dedication.

A memorial and scattering of ashes will be held Saturday, June 27, on San Francisco Bay. Phone Carol (731-4370) or Robert (664-4570) for info. Donations to the AIDS service organization of your choice. Pleasant journey, friend — see you there. ●

Patrick J. Reed

On June 12 my best buddy Pat Reed, 39, died after a mercifully short bout with PCP and meningitis. He was diagnosed in early May, but maintained his positive attitude and famous sense of humor throughout the rapid progress of the disease.



Pat was a long-time employee of American Airlines and a complete professional. He grew up in Hawaii, graduated from UCLA in 1970. He joined the airlines shortly thereafter. Before the onset of AIDS, he was flying regularly to his beloved Hawaii. Many will recall the good times at Upper Market. He was a perfect host and a steadfast friend.

Pat is survived by a loving and supportive family. His sister Nani of S.F., who provided so much practical care, deserves thanks from us all. His sister Mari, of Eugene, OR, brother Douglas, of Los Angeles, brother Michael, of Boise, ID, father William, of Boise, ID, and friend Will Cooper, of S.F., all helped him tremendously during this time.

As for me, I can never thank him enough for being there when I needed him. He was a true friend; a most fitting epitaph for these times. We will miss him very much.

Drew Payler ●

Dennis M. Lauriano

9/8/53 - 6/19/87

Dennis Michael Lauriano passed away on June 19 at the Coming Home Hospice, surrounded by many who love him. His passing was the culmination of a three-day vigil which brought together a wonderful assortment of friends, family, and caring hospice staff members.



The outpouring of love from this group encouraged Dennis to return to a level of consciousness where he could respond and hear how the lives of those present had been enriched by having known him. This amazing experience taught all present the beauty of unconditional love and the power it has at such a painful time.

Dennis' quiet bravery and courage during his illness were inspirations to all who knew him. Despite the knowledge of what was ahead, he lived the past 15 months in the most upbeat manner possible. His quick sense of humor and blunt honesty were in full form throughout his illness, and his ability to disarm any situation with laughter will not be forgotten.

It is with great pride that we say we knew him. While there is relief that his pain is over, there will always be sorrow that we can no longer enjoy his company. Special thanks to the staff of the hospice and to all who helped make Dennis' transition gentle and dignified.

A memorial service will be held at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., on Saturday, June 27, at 4 p.m. Later in the evening, there will be a celebration of Dennis' life. For location and time, please call Pat (621-0259, 434-2226) or Dennis (821-1662, 386-3150). Please bring your favorite photos.

Goodbye, dear friend. We shall never forget you. ●

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Gay Day In The East Bay

Crowds Slimmer While Snakes Slither

by Charles Linebarger

Lack of publicity was the main reason cited for the smaller than usual crowd at the East Bay's own Lesbian/Gay Day Celebration. The event took place on a warm and sunny day in Berkeley's Civic Center Park.

Jim Wilson was responsible for putting on the affair this year, his second as coordinator. "This is about the crowd we usually get," said Wilson. "We usually have about 1,000 people in and out during the day."

However, others at the event shook their heads when they looked at the smaller crowds. They complained about the lack of publicity.

Singer Anna Lisa Smoker and Fruit Punch's Jon Sugar regaled the crowd of women and men with their music while speakers such as newly elected Peralta College District Board member Tom Brougham and Gay Sierran Anne Riley talked about the lesbian/gay movement in the East Bay.

"Coming out of the lesbian/gay movement prepared me very well for my election campaign," said Brougham, who was previously president of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club. "The techniques I learned from dealing with people here are very valuable."



... but is it a gay snake? Nobody seemed to care as two men showed off their pet python. (Photo: Steve Savage)

SNAKES

"I ran openly on a platform that was gay and feminist," he added, "and we have issues that are legitimate for a community college to address." Brougham added that there should be classes on AIDS in the Peralta Community Colleges and people should be trained to work with it. "I'm also very interested in looking at gay studies, domestic partnership and comparable worth," he said.

Scot Nagel and Jim Montgomery lay on the grass in front of the stage with their friends and their snakes, or some of them. Montgomery had Burt with him. Burt is a nine-year-old Burmese Python who weighs in at 75-80 pounds. The snake is 13 feet in length.

While Burt slithered across the grass exploring the group's neighbors with his playful but ef-

ficient tongue, Nagel's own pet, Abraham, lay coiled at his master's feet. Abraham was a stunted six feet long and weighed only five and a half pounds. Nagel's other pet, Sarah, was at home watching over her eggs. She was, Nagel and Montgomery explained, Burt's mate.

Burt and Abraham were real hams and when Montgomery carried Burt off to the sidelines for some R and R he quickly

plopped down on the grass and headed off toward a hunky blond.

PEOPLE

Shawn Bennet manned the East Bay Dignity table. Talking about the Vatican's recent anti-gay statements Bennet said, "The hierarchy seems to have forgotten that the church is the people and not just the hierarchy. A lot of the stuff coming out of the Vatican today is stupid and thoughtless and anti-Christian. It's lacking in any kind of moral truth."

The Lesbian and Gay March on Washington was represented by Albert Lucero, who said he has signed up a lot of people for the national march. "We've raised some money too," he said. "We've sold quite a few buttons and pins."

Brian Cross from the Alameda County Health Department also manned a table, handing out free condoms and safe-sex literature. Cross estimated that he had given away nearly 1,000 condoms Sunday.

Other groups were also working the small crowd, including BANGLE (Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators), people from San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Parade, Federal Lesbians and Gays, Gay Parents, Women Against Materialism and more.

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Nez Pas

The Story of Loose Bruce

"NO CLASS '87" =
NO CONTESTANTS
(A "Where do I buy my ticket" Nose)

Years (and years and years) ago my brother was firmly convinced that ice cubes would freeze faster if they were started with hot water rather than cold. He could not and would not be dissuaded from this belief. I can only imagine that to this day, his automatic ice maker is connected to the hot water pipe! Such persuasions are immune to change.

Such was the case at Big Ma-ma's on Sunday, June 14. The tenet for that day was, "Have a 'No Class '87 Prom' with the contestants for prom queen and king selling tickets for charity. Hell, everybody will come dressed in formal and tuxedos because it's party time and gays love drag!"

Well, dear reader, that type of catechism didn't hold any holy water this particular Sunday. The only ones in male formal attire were the bartenders. And 9/10 through the event did any female formal attire finally appear — although bartender Michael did have a precious, glittering bauble dangling from his ear all afternoon!

Perhaps the lack of "participation," if you will, was because of

the competition. Not the encounters with rival ticket sellers, but the ominous challenge from the stage. Even if a pretender had donned a posthumously-designed dress by Edith Head, it couldn't have held a candle to the antics and renditions of Loose Bruce Kerr!

From his umpteen pieces of electronic wonderment that allowed him to be part of a 3- or 40-piece band right down to the cymbals strapped to his knees (they weren't actually there but they certainly wouldn't have been out of place!), Loose Bruce had the teeming crowd eating out of his hand. Every number performed allowed the audience to be part of the routine — ask Steve F. about holding Bruce's little red thing! — and the more they responded, the more Loose (I hope he doesn't mind my calling him by his first name!) gave to them. His two-hour stint, plus encore, passed all too quickly. Methinks that Zephyr Jim had better book him again soon — and set up extra rows of chairs!

Proceeds from the sales of Prom Queen & King were to have gone to East Bay Assistance Fund. But, since there were no

(Continued on next page)



Thee, me . . . and Fido. It's relaxation time on East Bay Lesbian/Gay Day. (Photo: Steve Savage)

Nez Pas

(Continued from previous page)

entries, donations were accepted, and a percentage of the bar was donated. EBAF was the recipient of a check for \$325.00. A tip of Nez's nose to Big Mama's, Michael (who bought a root beer Schnapps for my birthday), Zephyr Jim, and especially Loose Bruce Kerr, for making it a most memorable afternoon. You can bet the rent that when and if LBK appears again at Big Mama's, my spouse and I will be there — along with Sam and Marv, I'm sure.

It was whispered in my ear that aside from the two EBAF representatives and their spouses (all four Oakland bar owners), plus Cakes and Joe (sans Joann), there were no others of note/power/influence/prominence/notoriety/etc. from Oakland. It just goes to prove that those who never believed in the separation between Hayward and Oakland still don't believe in it; and that those who vehemently denounce the separation continue subliminally to prove the separation exists. How sad.

ESTIVAL "AL FRESCO" FESTINO

(A Late Seating Nost)

Don't forget to purchase your ticket(s) for the "June Barbecue Feast" at Revol, this Friday, June 26. There are only 40 tickets for each seating — one at 7 p.m. and one at 9 p.m.

ALL proceeds from the five-course meal, plus a glass of champagne (\$7.50 per person) go to East Bay Assistance Fund. Tick-

ets are available from Revol, Town & Country, and Big Mama's.

All preparation, cooking, and serving is being done by volunteers. I have to confess that it will be nice to be able to sit down and be served for a change, rather than being part of the activity in the kitchen!

Thanks to Bob Palm for his idea, his energy, his coordinating, and most of all, his generosity. And it didn't stop with this dinner. He is planning to serve yet another one! This time it won't be open to the public. It will be for all the volunteers. That's nice!

(P.S. It'll give a good excuse to see firsthand the new paint job and rearrangements. Thanks to Steve, Paul, Phil, and Patrick.)

CONGLOMERATION

(A Ragout Nose)

Oh, honestly! (No pun intended!) Why such guilt trips and unnecessary crisscross accusations? When money is solicited from the "community" for whatever charitable purposes, isn't the "community" entitled to an accounting of said money, without having to attend some unannounced meeting? Would that all solicitors contacted me with the accounting so I could get it published and put to rest the uncertainties. I can't believe that "silence" is an admission of guilt. How about it, all of you who raise money for charity? What's to lose but the malcontent that now exists? Or is it because . . .

Suzie is no longer at Town & Country. Ken is filling in. So forget about her being part of the "Turn-Around Week" between Revol, Town & Country, Big Mama's, Turf Club. Suzie may be

working Hayward again, but it won't be on the planks (perhaps the pavement?).

For the first time in many years, Ed Paulson will not be celebrating his (?) birthday with a function. No siree, Bob (whoever Bob is!). This year Ed is . . . er . . . relaxing at Russian River for two weeks. Say "Hi" to the Frump if you see him. Frumpy is the one with his legs in the air either behind the bar or in front.

And when Ed gets back from RR (What a paradox! There is no R&R (rest and relaxation) at Russian River — at least from what I remember!), he'll not only swing back into action at Big Mama's, but also he'll swing back into auction! Yes, dear reader, Ed will have an auction at the Spoiled Brat on Sunday, July 19, starting at 7 p.m. The proceeds will go to the AIDS Food Bank and Fairmont AIDS Ward. Saleable items are needed. Take them to the Spoiled Brat or to Ed's house.

No, I haven't heard anything about the status of the former A.C.I.E. Neither have I heard anything about the status of the newly formed I.S.E. Does this mean that the "community" can actually exist without "royal" leaders? Remember, you didn't read it here first!

A scribbled note to myself reads (as well as I can decipher it), "Moner Ju 22 BRAT MO TOON —." It was hastily scribbled as it was whispered in my ear during Loose Bruce's show. If the person who told me can recognize the information, please contact me. I AM curious!

The solution to a problem changes the nature of the problem. I smile at that! Love,

Nez •



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Sonoma Cnty Sets Advocacy Training For 6 July Dates

Carole Owens, Director of the Volunteer Program of Face to Face/The AIDS Network in Sonoma County has announced the next Advocacy Training is scheduled for July 10, 11, 12 and July 17, 18, 19. That's Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. An advocate is trained to provide support and counsel for people with AIDS and people with AIDS related conditions. A personal interview is necessary before training acceptance.

Face to Face has an ongoing need for advocates, in-home care volunteers and general volunteers for a variety of tasks.

Please contact Face to Face at 887-2437 immediately for an application.



E. Bay AIDS Project Seeks Service Exec.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

is looking for a director of client services. The director of services is responsible for staff and volunteer recruitment and training, program development, systems revision and funding development. Must be sensitive to sexual and ethnic minorities and to people with AIDS. Should be experienced with client services, program administration and personnel management. The AIDS Project is a non-profit agency serving Alameda County; the position is full-time, paying \$27-30,000, plus benefits. Send resume by June 30 to AIDS Executive Director, P.O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701.

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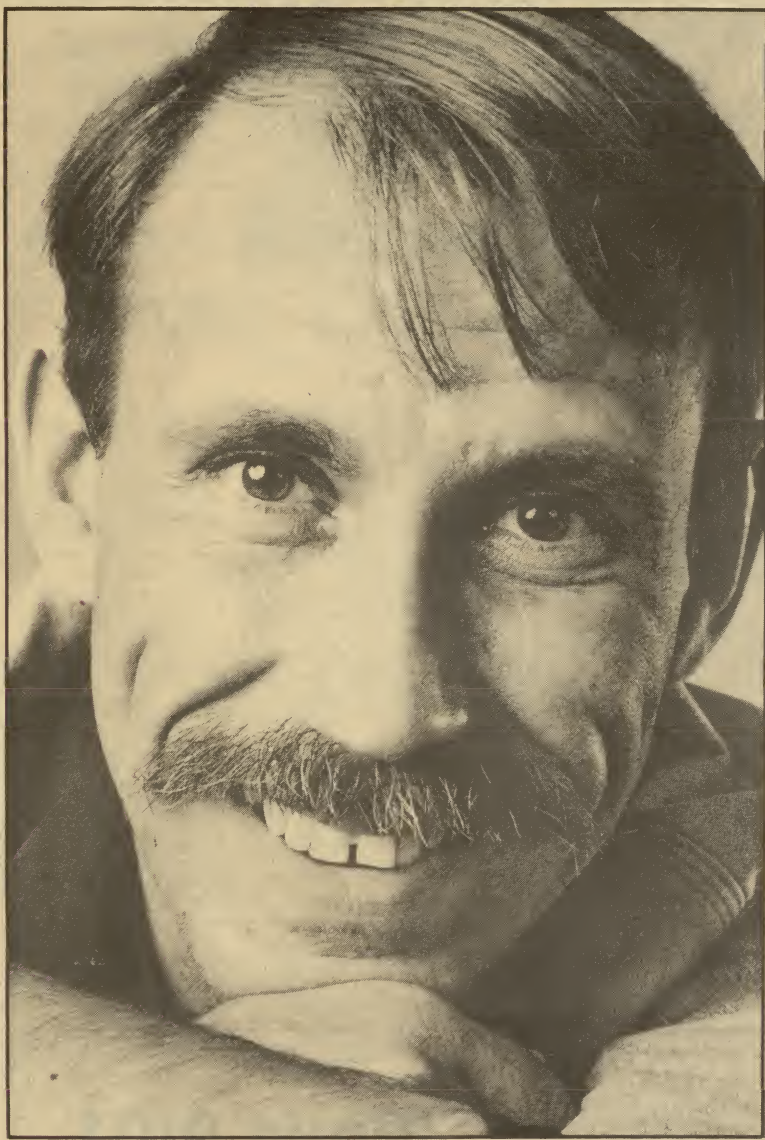
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'I know I am facing a wall. I have to keep reminding myself to turn around away from the wall.'

—John Lorenzini, one of The Faces of AIDS
(Photo: Jim Wigler)

Faces of AIDS

Peninsula Exhibit Tells Story Of People Fighting for Life

by Marv. Shaw

Sixty faces of AIDS looked steadfastly at the more than 200 people who attended the opening of the photography show by Jim Wigler in the Corridor Gallery of the San Mateo County Government Center in Redwood City on June 15. Initiated by Tom Nolan, president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the exhibit is co-sponsored by the Arts Council of San Mateo County, the supervisors, and private supporters.

"It is very important that people come face to face with people with AIDS," Nolan emphasized in his opening remarks. "You can feel the power in this room. In seeing, you touch the lives of the people in the pictures."

Wigler became acquainted with Sup. Nolan by doing campaign photos of him for the 1984 election. A self-taught artist, Wigler feels overwhelmed by the achievement. "I cannot believe I did it," he said. He called the year-long work "a fabulous experience, a real affirmation."

He is also very hopeful about the future of the show, which will be in Redwood City until July 17 and then will go to Sacramento and after that to the House of Commons at the British Parliament in London.

As pianist Kenny Richardson played show tunes, viewers sipped wine as they circulated among the photos and ready the accompanying quotations. The latter were assembled by Eleanor Haas, who conducted the interviews with the subjects and selected the words to go with the pictures.

"They wanted to talk," Haas said. "I chose from their taped remarks those portions which I thought gave the essence of the person."

The pictures could be described as sensitive realism. Reminiscent of the work of Karsh of Ottawa, each black and white portrait is a straightforward representation of the person, with how he or she feels about the illness.

A deal to publish the show in a book is in the works. Peter

Young, who set up the show, will do the book design.

The philosophical and emotional range of the quotations is broad and deep. Poignance, fear, faith, hope — a great myriad of expressions are reflected.

From 20-year-old Lee Joseph: "The hardest thing is seeing myself melt away and disappear." Kendall May, 35: "Finally, a sure cure for vanity and false pride." Clark Henley, 37: "My heart is finally working." Daniel Witt, 57: "I look forward to each day, but I know better than to count on it."

Others reach out for love, as with Joan Baker: "I'm hoping to God that my parents in England write to me. If not, I'm going to call them. 'Now is the time you've got to stick near me. I need you to help me out.'"

Some are full of irony, as in the statement of Lou Sullivan, 36: "I'm a female to male, transsexual. AIDS was the last thing I expected. I haven't had that many contacts. They told me at the gender clinic I couldn't live as a gay man, but it looks like I am going to die as one."

Tommy Utah, one of the several people with AIDS at the show opening, said of the experience, "I am very pleased. It provides a higher profile for people with AIDS."

Nolan reported that over \$5,000 had been contributed by attendees. Solicitations will continue. The proceeds will go to ELLIPSE, the San Mateo County AIDS Care Facility, with some going to the show itself. ●

Legal Battle

(Continued from page 14)

losis. She had been fired because of a mistaken belief that her illness was casually contagious. But legal observers expressed confidence that the analysis underlying the decision would apply to discrimination against people with AIDS as well.

Characterizing the decision as a "major victory," National Gay Rights Advocate's Ben Schatz said that the decision was part of the "enormous progress" that was made over the past year in teaching people that AIDS was not casually contagious and establishing legal protection for the rights of people with AIDS to be free from discrimination in housing, employment, and — in the case of children with AIDS — the right to attend school.

In another widely publicized case, a federal judge in California ordered the Atascadero School Board to allow Ryan Thomas, a five year old with AIDS, to attend kindergarten.

CUSTODY

At the Lesbian Rights Project, progress was made in the ongoing effort to make it easier for gays and lesbians to be parents,

but through education rather than litigation.

According to Achtenberg, only five percent of all custody cases ever come before a judge. The rest are either settled by the couple themselves or by a court appointed mediator. As a result, she said, lawyers can often make more of an impact by educating people about gay parenting rather than battling out every case in court.

"Litigation," she said, "can be an extremely inefficient way to change people's attitudes." While the Lesbian Rights Project is ready to go to court when necessary, it also tries to educate people so that situations that lead to litigation can be avoided.

Over the past year, the Project has worked to educate social workers, judges, psychologists and court personnel about gay and lesbian parenting. In addition, the Project recently completed a training for the heads of all California adoption agencies.

"Anyone who'll listen," said Achtenberg, "we'll talk to."

SELF-HELP

On an individual level, a growing number of gay people are learning how to use legal documents to create rights. We've all

heard stories about people denied access to their dying lovers in hospitals or about long lost relatives who arrive after a death from AIDS and strip the victim's apartment bare. "People are learning," according to Achtenberg, "that by using simple things like wills and durable powers of attorney, we can reclaim some of the rights we would normally be denied because we can't legally marry."

Several lawyers were quick to point out the importance of these "low profile" legal accomplishments. Clint Hockenberry, administrator of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) AIDS Panel, explained that "our clients are not here to be crusaders. They're often very sick and they've just got too much else going on in their lives."

"What they need," he continued, "is help with basic things like keeping a roof over their heads or getting their insurance to pay for the medicine they need, and we're here to give them that basic help."

According to Achtenberg, "the things that lawyers can do that make an actual difference in a person's life" are every bit as important as the cases that make the headlines.

"Empowering people in their

day-to-day lives," she said, "is one of the most significant things that a lawyer can ever hope to do."

THE FUTURE

While acknowledging the importance of the *Hardwick* decision, all the attorneys interviewed also stress that, as NGRA's Leonard Graff put it, "*Hardwick* was not the end of the world."

"What we've got to do now, he said, "is take our loss, dust ourselves off, and move on." New strategies, he suggested, would include fighting sodomy laws in the state courts and working to get state legislatures to repeal these laws.

But all also agreed that the fight for gay rights could not be won in the courtrooms alone. Legal battles, they said, were just one part of the larger gay and lesbian movement.

"We cannot look at the courts as some sort of savior," according to Schatz, "It just won't work if people sit back and say the lawyers will take care of everything."

Instead, he said, "we need people demonstrating and lobbying and getting elected to political offices, as well as filing lawsuits if we're going to win."

One immediate area where law

and politics were intertwined is the need to elect a president who will appoint Supreme Court justices who will support gay rights.

"The next president is going to have a chance to shape the future of the court for years to come," Wotman said, "and we'd better make sure that that future includes some constitutional rights for us."

Reflecting on the growing clamor for mandatory testing and the lurking possibility of quarantine, Schatz described the coming year as "a very frightening" time. While reaffirming that gay and lesbian attorneys will "keep battling it out in the courts," he again stressed the importance of getting more people involved in the struggle.

"There are real dangers out there," he said, "things like mandatory testing and mass discrimination, and lawyers aren't going to be able to stop them on their own."

"It's absolutely imperative," he concluded, "that everyone get involved."

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(Photo: Steve Savage)



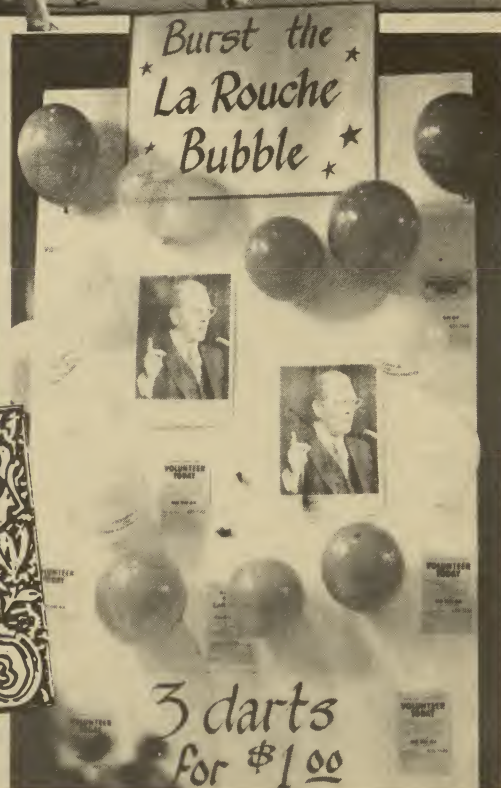
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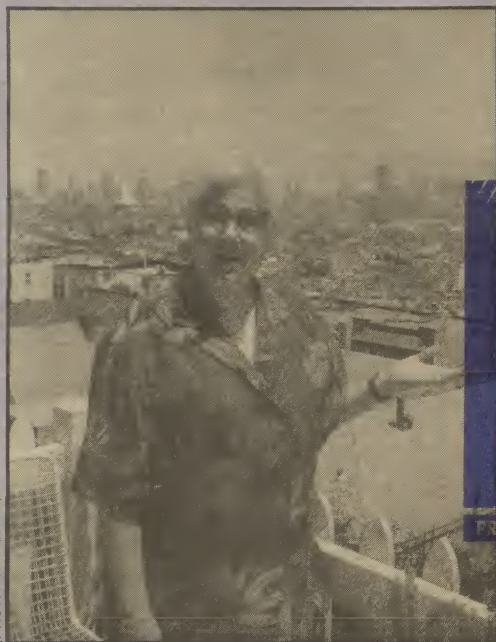
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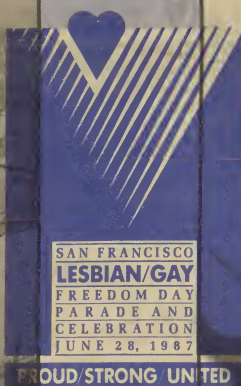
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Lesbian/Gay Chorus of S.F.

A Somewhat Preposterous Idea
That's Come Into Its Own



Sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses rehearse together in San Francisco's only — and the nation's oldest — mixed lesbian/gay chorus
(Photo: S. Savage)

by Greg Vogel

Something new is happening at this year's Gay Musical Celebration. Sure, there'll be plenty of singers and musicians to start the weekend off on a high note. But this time, the producers won't be the Gay Men's Chorus. The event won't be sponsored by Remy Martin. This time, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco will produce the event, and PC World Communications will help foot the bill. Friday, June 26, the Chorus will come into its own.

Founded in 1980, the mixed Chorus has always seemed a nice if somewhat preposterous idea. Over the years, its leadership has changed hands; performances have been inconsistent. By 1985, membership had dwindled to a small but determined core of 12 singers. Undaunted, they looked for new leadership — and found it in Rodger Pettyjohn.

Under his musical direction, the Chorus regained its strength and began to develop a new identity. By last spring, the group was ready to spread its goodwill eastward, to the Statue of Liberty restoration project. Money from the group's This is Our Country concert went to pay for a plaque on Ellis Island, inscribed "From the Lesbian and Gay Community of San Francisco."

That summer, the Chorus produced the Inaugural Concert of Gay Games II, featuring music by such gay composers as Benjamin Britten, Kristen Nordeval, Robert Chesley, and Matthew McQueen. A night of synthesized sounds, projected images, and modern opera, it was an important step beyond their usual programming of light music and Americana.

"Rodger had a vision — to push the Chorus to do music that was more serious, with more works by gay and lesbian composers," explains Business Manager MaryAnn DiPietro. At the time, Pettyjohn's own involvement with the Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers promised more forays into modern and experimental music. In October, Menage, a mixed octet, was formed; things were looking good. But after the last Christmas concert, Pettyjohn fell ill and was forced to give up conducting — just as the group was on solid ground.

Fortunately, strength of purpose kept the singers on track. In January, they hired Pat Parr as their new musical director, agreed to produce the 1987 Gay Musical Celebration, and began raising funds. The Chorus has grown up.

Today, the band of 37 seems tighter than ever.

"It's like a second family," said Tenor Bill Sanderson, rehearsing recently at St. Francis Lutheran Church. "In the rest of the community, the lesbians and gay men have their own places. They don't interact much. But here we can sing together, go on retreats, and have fun."

That feeling is mutual.

"The women and men of this group obviously search out this kind of experience," explains Alto Rosemary Mitchell. "I need men in my life, and the men here need women."

But the Chorus has to be more than a vehicle for personal or political expression, Mitchell points out.

"We have to be good enough for the audience. They have to like us first — and then notice it's men and women up there on the stage together. We want to make a statement, but we have to sound damn good doing it so people will remember us."

Making them sound good is a job for which Pat Parr is well prepared. A Summa Cum Laude graduate of Oklahoma City University, Parr double-majored in piano performance and vocal education. He started out in San Francisco as musical director for a show at Broadway's Chi-Chi Club. Since then, he's been active in the local music scene — from both sides of the podium.

Currently accompanist for both the San Francisco Girl's Chorus and the Contra Costa Chorale, Parr has rounded out his gay musical life by singing with the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale and accompanying the

Gay Men's Chorus. He's kept his showbiz senses sharp by working as musical director for local productions, like *West Side Story* at San Francisco State University. With such diverse experience, he was a strong candidate for the Lesbian/Gay Chorus.

"I was very happy when I was offered the job," Parr says. "I was really looking forward to conducting again. It had been almost two years since I'd had a chorus of my own. I'd heard them at Christmas, and I was really impressed with the work Rodger had done. They were sounding really good."

Parr plans to continue working on the Chorus' blend, dynamics, and overall musicianship. He'd also like to see the group grow in size to 50 singers. Musically, he prefers "a real spectrum of music — not just classical, pop, or show tunes. I want us to do all kinds of music and to do them all well." On the agenda: an all-country concert this fall, followed by classics next spring.

In the arts, finances are always a struggle, but recently the Chorus has done well. A \$1,300 GGBA Foundation grant helped fund last summer's concert, and this year, PC World Communications — publisher of PC World and MacWorld magazines — is giving \$5,350 to underwrite the Gay Musical Celebration. International Data Group is kicking in another \$1,000. Plus, DiPietro notes, this is the first year the Chorus has received patron support.

"There's a sense that our time has come," she says. "We intend to seek tax-exempt status, and go forward on our own." By 1989, Parr hopes that road will lead the group to Seattle for the 3rd GALA festival, an international gathering of lesbian and gay choruses.

"Only a couple of members went to Minneapolis for GALA II," he says. "Next time, I want us all to be there."

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Life of the Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhino Comes Out Of Adolescence In Its 10th Year

by Randall Lyman

"We did it in a leather bar called the Black and Blue that had just lost its liquor license," Lanny Baugniet told me recently.

What he and partner Allan Estes did was stage a production of Doric Wilson's *The West Street Gang*, a comedy about violence against gays. "That production really put us on the map," he says. "It ran for months. We got some incredible feedback. That's when we finally realized that his thing was a lot bigger than just the two of us."

"This thing" was Theatre Rhinoceros, a fledgling gay theater company founded by Estes and Baugniet less than two years before.

"We met at a New Year's Eve party," Baugniet recalls, "and Allan had this idea for starting a gay theater, but he didn't understand the mechanics of going about it. So I became administrative director and he became artistic director. We did our first production eight months later, in August 1977. We approached the idea of gay theater as artists, not activists, but people came and saw things they never expected to see on stage. It was cathartic for them. They became our audience, and they kept coming back."

This weekend, Theatre Rhinoceros celebrates its 10th Anniversary with an encore produc-



The late Thomas Mark (l.), Gerald Duff, and Ron Hardesty in *Design for Living* (Photo: Rink)

tion of Doug Holzclaw's hit *Life of the Party* at the Victoria Theatre. That first year, the baby Rhinoceros gave only 24 performances to some 700 patrons; seven years later, those numbers had risen to 300 and 30,000. Last year, the company staged six mainstage productions, seven

studio productions, a playwrights workshop, play readings, and hosted several independent productions by gay artists. Today, Theatre Rhinoceros is recognized as the largest and most prominent gay theater in the nation.

The gay press played an impor-

tant role in the theater's rise.

"The gay papers were always good to us," Baugniet says. "They were free, so people always picked them up. That was very important in getting the company's name into the community and people's homes."

It wasn't until 1984, however, that a review in the Chronicle opened the door to coverage in the straight press. Later that season, Jane Chambers' *A Late Snow* became the first Theatre Rhinoceros production to receive a Clapping Man, and straight people began to join the company's growing legions.

Before Theatre Rhinoceros, there was no "legitimate" gay theater to speak of. There were drag shows. There was the Cockettes, whose midnight Nocturnal Dreamshows filled Chinatown's Palace Theater on weekends. But that group, from whose ranks rose such colorful figures as Sylvester and Divine, disbanded in 1972.

The late 1970s were ripe for a gay theater company. While Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell were enjoying their heyday, the "Me Decade" blew the first breaths of gay pride through the community. In an atmosphere heady with new-found freedom, gays became openly proud of their unique sexual identity. Baugniet believes that "producing gay plays became a way of legitimizing ourselves. Theater let us present our lives in a digestible fashion. It's a lot easier for most people, straight or gay, to deal with gays in a play than in a screaming picket line."

Not surprisingly, many of the plays done at that time dealt with issues of coming out, with gay sex and sexuality, often in a comedic context, because "sex is an uncomfortable topic anyway, and comedy makes it easier to deal with." Sexual politics was another common theme. The politics of personal relationships became a microcosm for the social politics of being gay.

Lesbian issues were different. Theatre Rhinoceros was de facto primarily a men's theater, and not many wo-

men were willing to get involved. Nor did many men want them to. That's all different now. "Kris Gannon had a lot to do with that change," Baugniet says.

Kris Gannon, who recently left Theatre Rhinoceros as artistic director to pursue a more independent career, took over that position when Allan Estes died in 1984.

"When I first came on as administrative director [replacing Baugniet] two years before, we had only 50 women subscribers," she remembers. "Today, about 40% of our subscribers are women. It's meant we've lost a lot of male subscribers, but we've continued to gain more than we lose." In five years, the total has jumped from 800 to more than 2,200, one of the largest and fastest growing subscriber bases in the Bay Area.

Gannon feels that the gay and lesbian communities have grown closer in recent years.

"They were much more separate in the '70s. AIDS has done a lot to bring them closer together, and I think Theatre Rhinoceros has been in the forefront of that movement." Plays like *A Late Snow*, *Please Wait for the Beep*, and the current production of *Pulp and Circumstance* have been instrumental in bringing lesbian issues to the forefront. The last two have broken away from the dry seriousness of lesbian politics to celebrate the joy and playfulness of female eroticism. "Programming a season is a real balancing act. If you do a play about men's relationships, then you do one on women's too. Maybe you do a comedy or a farce, or a realistic apartment drama, or something experimental. You're always trying to do good plays. That's the most important thing."

Political and personal issues remain at the heart of Theatre Rhinoceros' mission.

"I think it would be criminal not to do plays about AIDS," Gannon says. The theater has also produced plays about anti-gay violence, gay parenting, and other important issues, like personal relationships. "Our audience wants to see themselves on stage, to see ways of dealing with their own lives. It's still very important to affirm gay relationships, and to produce plays with a gay sensibility — not specifically about gays, but about gays dealing with the world and reality."

Maintaining artistic integrity has also been a paramount concern since the beginning. In the late '70s, New York's Doric Wilson, Robert Patrick, and Harvey Fierstein were the only playwrights writing on gay issues to achieve national prominence.

"Finding scripts was our main problem at the beginning," Baugniet admits. "There just wasn't much gay literature around, other than from those three. Allan and I wanted to produce local artists, so we ran an advertisement for scripts. We received over a hundred. We were astounded that so many gay plays were being written, even if they weren't being produced."

"One of our main concerns," elaborates Gannon, "is building a body of gay literature, and creating a history that will live on after we've left the scene."

(Continued on next page)

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Rhino

(Continued from previous page)

With its rapid growth and tremendous support from the gay community, it seems clear that Theatre Rhinoceros' impact has been much more than artistic. Gays have always supported and been a driving force in the arts, and although many patrons attend the opera, the ballet, and other theater, for most of them Theatre Rhinoceros is their only theatrical experience. For many, it was their first. Gannon goes on: "It's important for us to be there culturally. The theater is a safe place to meet, to share laughter and tears. The gay community needs to share its experiences."

"Theatre Rhinoceros needs to deal with gay issues and feelings, but also to stay one step ahead of those issues and feelings. We're trying to support the community, but also to bring it forward with us. Playwrights are writing about what is happening. That's why the past couple seasons have seemed rather dark — not many comedies were written in the early days of AIDS. But writers are finding ways of dealing with events. *Life of the Party* is a second-generation AIDS play. It deals with AIDS not as a crisis, but as an ongoing reality."

In the spring of 1980, Theatre Rhinoceros participated in the First Gay American Arts Festival in New York. *Richmond Jim* played to sold-out houses, featuring what one critic called a "pin-you-to-the-wall performance" by Charlie Hufford. Later, the company took *Richmond Jim* and a one-act entitled *American Coffee* on a tour of California campuses and shopping malls. In 1985 and 1986, *The AIDS Show* and *Unfinished Business: The New AIDS Show* performed at theaters in New York, Denver, Boston, and other major cities and on several California university campuses. But touring took its toll.

"It was very draining to support a subscription season at home and tour *The AIDS Show* at the same time," Gannon remembers. "We're not like the Mime Troupe or A Travelling Jewish Theater, which don't have permanent spaces and are basically set up for touring. But it was very exciting. We dream of having a separate touring branch."

If touring was exciting and draining, it was also eye opening. Both Gannon and Baugniot came to realize just how few communities in this country have any gay theater. Baugniot feels that AIDS has made people in the 1980s "scared to death" to deal with gays.

"Fear of AIDS is the real dis-



Sharon McDonald (l.) comforts Susan Marr in the Theatre Rhinoceros production of Sarah Dreher's *8x10 Glossy*

(Photo: Mark I. Chester)

ease, but now AIDS has become a legitimate topic in drama. In small towns, people would come to see us who would never actually go up to talk to a gay person. The theater offers the safety of the fourth wall for a mainstream straight audience to see and learn about gays without confronting them face to face. Touring *The AIDS Show* was a real milestone."

Other gay theaters are cropping up in major cities like Seattle, Los Angeles, Portland, and Dallas, and New York's Stonewall Rep has established itself as an important name. But this year the Meridien in New York had to close its doors, leaving San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros with even a bigger lead as the oldest and most established gay theater company in the nation, perhaps in the world.

"You really feel the weight, the sense of responsibility that position brings," notes Gannon. "Before we toured *The AIDS Show* almost no one outside of San Francisco, other than playwrights, had even heard of Theatre Rhinoceros." This year, gay theaters in Chicago, Dallas,

Week and its own 10th Anniversary, Theatre Rhinoceros is reviving its 1986 hit *Life of the Party* for a special one-weekend run at the Victoria Theatre. The play, written by Doug Holsclaw and directed by Leland Moss, reunites most of the original cast (with Moss himself as the replacement member). The play won numerous awards, including the 1986 Cable Car Award and Clickman Award for Best Play, a Drama-Logue Award for Outstanding Playwright, two Bernie Awards for Outstanding Playwright and Actor, and two Bay Area Critics Circle nominations for Best Playwright and Director. Call the box office at 861-5079 for tickets.

To John Karr, Theatre Rhinoceros' publicist, the 10th Anniversary means that the future is just opening up.

"In the 1970s the theater and the gay community had a care-free, affirmative childhood, where we celebrated ourselves. In our adolescence we dealt with specific issues and developed a dramatic literature. I think we've reached our adulthood with *Life of the Party*. It's a serious play, yet it's done within the context of the earlier comedies. It's about our maturing, and dealing with the world and our place in it. *Life of the Party* isn't really about AIDS at all. It's a play about living, not dying."

The future remains wide open as Theatre Rhinoceros, entering its second decade, attempts to forge a new vision for the 1990s. Where will the Rhino, grown from a baby into the country's acknowledged leader in gay theater, stampede to now?

"What is a gay play?" Baugniot muses on the question.

"One that sleeps with another play of the same sex? We're raising a fresh crop of young playwrights whose sexual identity will be secondary to their work, and I think gay theater will slip slowly into the mainstream. 'Gay play' will mean not just plays written by gays, but written by straight people about gays, or about issues dealing with gay characters, where characters will be gay just as naturally as other characters are old or young or rich or poor."

Theatre Rhinoceros is still coasting on the energy of its co-founder, Allan Estes.

"He was a man of tremendous charisma, energy and vision," Karr explains, and his mailbox in the box office has become a small shrine, containing keys, photos, and other talismans associated with him. But new people are coming to the theater who have never heard of Allan Estes or his legacy.

"We've got 18 and 19-year-olds coming up who think AIDS can't happen to them," Gannon says. "They're not having safe sex. They think youth will live forever." A new audience, a challenge that Theatre Rhinoceros may have to meet.

"We have a responsibility to help," Baugniot feels, "and theater is a good way to do it. I hope to see an end to separatism, and that someday there won't be a need for gay theater per se, but that homosexuality will become a theme in American theater. We're all the same anyway. Meanwhile, our audience has kept alive, and we're offering them something they couldn't find anywhere else in the world." ●

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Sheila Lichirie and Curt Crider (l.) and Martin Xero and Robert Wendell (r.) in *Fugue in a Nursery* by Harvey Fierstein
(Photo: Rink)



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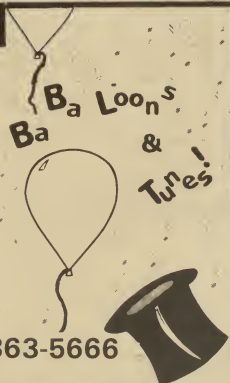
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VISA/MASTERCARD

Sister Mary Sharon

Explains All About *Nunsense* and The AIDS Emergency Fund

by Steve Warren

Sharon McNight is home! For most of the last year San Francisco's been on the losing end of a tug-of-war with New York, but we've got her now — not in her familiar cabaret persona, but as Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of Novices in *Nunsense*.

The unconventional musical, written and directed by Dan Goggin, opened off-Broadway in December 1985 and has already spread as far as Sydney and Rio de Janeiro. The engagement which began previewing at Marines Memorial Theatre last week for a June 25 opening is its (U.S.) West Coast premiere.

Because Sharon McNight is Honorary Co-Chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund, there will be a benefit performance for that organization July 9, with an optional post-theater supper. Call 441-6407 for tickets.

We'll get back to *Nunsense*, but first let's catch up on what Sharon's been doing, other than flying in for AIDS benefits and the Molinari for Mayor kickoff. When last heard from she had directed *Behind the Green Door II — the Sequel* (Just when you thought it was safe to go back to bed...) for the Mitchell Brothers.

"I had directed a film (*Autobiography of a Flea*) for them 12 years ago," she recalls after greeting us in a big green bath towel. "One of the brothers called me the day I got back from Europe and asked, 'Would you come over and work on a movie?' I said no. 'It's about safe sex.' 'I'll be there tomorrow.' It was just one more way to wage war (on AIDS)." To the best of anyone's knowledge, *Door II* was the first heterosexual safe-sex porn film.

At 11:30 in the morning McNight is still struggling to adjust her "body clock" to a shifting rehearsal schedule, instead of the "normal party schedule I've been on the past ten years in the



Sharon McNight (l.) gets up in her nun drag with co-star Marilyn Farina in *Nunsense*

nightclub business." Her tendonitis is bothering her, and she gulps down an assortment of pills — like the '60s, only prescription.

While we're used to Sharon standing on a stage belting out her songs, she's been doing some acting in New York. She and Quentin Crisp appeared off-Broadway in *Murder at Rutherford House*, and she recently played a dual role in the workshop production of a cartoon musical called *Starmites*, as "the mother of a normal girl and Diva, Queen of Inner Space." A photo of her Diva costume is priceless — a flowing, pleated gold cape ("borrowed from a drag queen") and a high red wig that's beyond *Beyond Thunderdome*.

Between shows she racked up enough cabaret hours to be voted Female Vocalist of the Year by the Manhattan Association of Cabarets. Fortunately, the award is in the form of a pendant, so she doesn't have to make room on a living room wall crowded with local plaques — Cable Car Awards, the Cabaret Gold Lifetime Achievement Award, a certificate from the City and County of San Francisco with her name calligraphically misspelled, and one from Los Angeles with it spelled correctly.

Now she's back as one of the girls in an ensemble show, and she underplays the difficulty of adjusting: "Everybody was in the chorus line in the beginning. It's no problem going back." Actually, each of the five women has individual moments in which to shine. As Sharon says, "I have the '11 o'clock number,' the last song in the show; and it's a rip-snorter."

The premise of *Nunsense* is that five surviving sisters of a Hoboken convent are putting on a show to raise money to bury their fallen comrades, victims of a vichyssoise prepared by Sister Julia, Child of God. Two members of the original New York cast are appearing here, Marilyn Farina as the Mother Superior and Semina De Laurentis as Sister Mary Amnesia. The cast also features Beth Bowles and Lanny Stephens.

McNight calls Farina "one of the funniest people I've ever met in my life" and says the scene where Mother Superior gets high on Rush cracks her up at every rehearsal. Being first- and second-in-command at the convent, she says, the two women "are like Mame and Vera Charles."

Sister Mary Hubert (McNight) is in charge of discipline, and if you've ever seen Sharon silence a roomful of screaming queens with a single glare, you'll know she can handle it. Where she has



Sharon McNight in her nightclub drag

(Photo: Rink)

(Continued on next page)

Nunsense

(Continued from previous page)

trouble, she says, is in delivering a line like, "Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a nun." It takes a lot of motivation to say that line!"

Although Sharon says "Holy shit!" more than Sister Mary Hubert, she doesn't see the role as that much of a stretch: "What am I? What's the sister? She's a white woman."

Nunsense isn't a vicious attack on the Catholic church like Chris Durang's wonderful *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, but it doesn't take a positive stand either.

"This is so non-political," McNight says. "It's about five

women who just happen to be nuns." The show has been popular with real nuns in other cities, and with a little luck will still be playing here in September when the pope visits.

"I just hope that there's no violence," Sharon says of the papal visit. "Not on our side, but some other nerdball. . ." She's interested to hear of the counter events being planned.

Doing *Nunsense* is part of McNight's career strategy, "showing producers I can be a good girl, show up on time and get reviews." The New York Times praised her performance in *Starmites*, she says. Having

this sort of thing on her resume will, she hopes, open doors to more television and New York stage work. And film? "If I had three choices film would be number three. It's so mechanical and it takes forever."

Would she be interested in playing the Mae West role in *Diamond Lil* at A.C.T. next winter? "Mmmmm," she purrs in a familiar way. "I'd love to. It makes my roots come up blonde just to think of it."

Another project she wants to do is the show about Sophie Tucker she's been planning for six years.

"I started the thing with four

scenes — that's when I was gonna have a cast of 25, but you can't do that except in countries like England where the theater's subsidized. I wrote two scenes when it was gonna have a cast of eight.

"Now I think there will just be two of us — besides the orchestra — me and the piano player. I mean, a girl's gotta have her piano player."

Meanwhile, she's committed to *Nunsense* for six months, with two weeks off in the fall for some cabaret shows in England, including appearances at rival London discos, Heaven and the Hippodrome.

In the more immediate future,

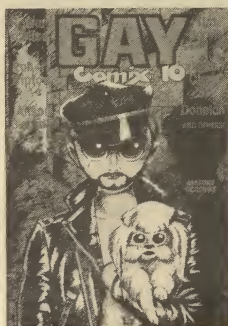
look for her to represent the AIDS Emergency Fund in the parade Sunday.

"I am the float," she jokes. A "fabu" costume is planned, but she won't be wearing her *Nunsense* habit: "We have to separate church and state."



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John Karr

A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities

If I mourn first, then I can celebrate. The deaths this month of S.F. filmmaker Curt McDowell and New York man-of-the-theater Charles Ludlam stunned me. I'm affected by all the deaths I hear and read about, but these men were figureheads to me. They were role models in the way a homosexual personality and ethos could be developed in art, expanding my world in ways I could not have discovered myself. Time and again, they magically transformed my life, and their deaths are hard to bear. I wept for them, and for the rest of us, a generation of gay men which flowered as no other, gutted.

For all Ludlam and McDowell gave in life, can we find anything that might assuage their loss? Although working in different fields, and motivated by varying drives, Ludlam and McDowell shared two strongly unifying traits — a satiric, iconoclastic, and exuberant wit, and its use in exploring their message of personal freedom. Their gift to us, which cannot be removed by death, was named by Village Voice critic Erika Munk. In her obituary for Ludlam, she described the effect of his work. "Every moment of wild laughter," she wrote, "freed some bind in the spirit and unleashed a kaleidoscope of possibilities."

Shortly before his death, Ludlam was awarded an Obie for Lifetime Achievement in the Theater. He was cited for his creation of a theater that was "classic in form, witty in substance, and innovative in content." The citation stressed that Ludlam kept old traditions alive by rethinking and reinventing them until they came out brand new. To me, this is a pretty succinct description of gay life, too, for we rethink and remodel the classic forms of people living and loving together. Yet in this age of AIDS and the resultant conservatism, we mustn't forget that gay life still offers a kaleidoscope of possibilities. Even as I mourn the loss of Ludlam and McDowell as leaders in creativity, explorers of possibility, and promoters of general festivity, I exhort the living: Explore the kaleidoscope of possibilities.

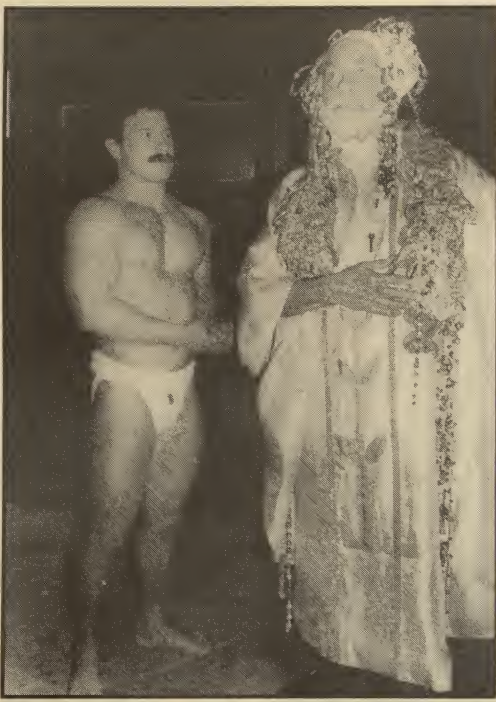
In other words, Get Queer.

What is "queer," anyway? The word didn't used to carry the pejorative of its modern definition, "slightly ill, qualmish." It meant crooked, as in differing from what is usual. And "perverse" originally meant the simple direction, "turn to the side." "Kinky" once was not weirdly unusual, but "not straight, circular." Strange how people will always celebrate a slogan like the currently popular "The future lies in kinky people," (applauded every time it's heard in the movie *Personal Services*), yet leave the kinkiness, being circular and creative, to others. Don't.

Be part of the Gay and Lesbian Parade this weekend, and be a part of gay culture all year. Create and fulfill your own gay possibilities.

★ ★ ★

I mourned Ludlam and McDowell because to me they were shamans who repeatedly opened that kaleidoscope of possibilities which recently seems to have been closing. There is another opener of



An unidentified admirer looks on as James Broughton, on the occasion of his 69th birthday, receives Beatification and becomes Saint James of the Flying Phallus in a celebration sponsored by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

the portal, though, who is still very much with us. We can celebrate not only the continued ecstasy he brings, but a new manifestation of his gift.

If you don't know James Broughton's poetry, you haven't been blessed. James has been celebrating the gay spirit for years. The homespun wit and wisdom of his poetry has lifted me from many a dark mood. Joseph Bean's article in this issue will fill you in on the essentials about James, and a recently released batch of cassettes will bring you the pleasure of hearing James himself deliver his poems to you.

In his many books, like *Graffiti for the John's of Heaven*, *Ecstasies*, and the collected volume, *A Long Undressing*, James has delivered deceptively simple-looking poems of sparkling wit and — most specially — scampering rhythms.

"I've written as much for the ear as the eye," James said, "and the tapes are important to me because they make the poems exist off the page as well as on the page. My poems are mostly verbal expressions, song forms, little recitatives and arias."

Three of the four cassettes were recorded last summer under the best of studio conditions. The fourth, *Songs from A Long Undressing*, was made in 1968, and stands out because it augments James' voice with a specially created musical score played on a harp.

My favorite among the other tapes is the selections from *True and False Unicorn*, since it includes "The Ballad of Mad Jenny." This delicious saga offers a first-person treatment to the life and loves of the feisty Jenny, who has spent her life loving, indeed. It has acquired a touching meaning with the advent of AIDS, but has always held a special place in

the author's affections.

"Mad Jenny" was a voice that came out of me," James said. "The angels, the muses — whatever you call them — just come; the voice speaks through you. My desire had always been to be able to be a mouthpiece for angels, because they know so much more than I do."

It's certainly the angels who speak through James in the poems from his most famous work, on the cassette *Ecstasies*. These physical and metaphysical love songs tell the tale of James' enduring love affair with his partner, Joel Singer, and sing the surprises and subtleties of sexual and religious love. The tape climaxes with his most famous poem, "Shaman Psalm," which imperatively urges gay men to love one another in all ways possible.

"I go my own way," said the unclassifiable poet. "I'm totally unfashionable; I'm not twelve-tone at all."

He's also thoroughly and explicitly gay, which he sees as the reason for his lack of acceptance within the academic world. He's not listed in *The Oxford Companion to American Literature*, nor will the country's largest commercial purveyor of taped poetry market his work.

"It's homophobia," James said, "and it's increased since we made the film *Devotions*, which was so overt."

But he's learned to go where he's wanted, which is quickly to the hearts of gay people who read him — and now hear him. The tapes, which are available locally at the Walt Whitman Bookstore, excited me so much I thought they all had musical backgrounds, not just *A Long Undressing*.

"That's my voice you heard, darling," said James.

Or the voice of angels. ●

James Broughton

The Life and Signs of Saint James of the Flying Phallus

by Joseph W. Bean

When James Broughton was born — Nov. 10, 1913 — the infamously erotic Scorpio was high in the sky, but there were other signs and portents, too. It was in 1913 that the Stravinsky-Nijinsky ballet, *The Rites of Spring*, literally caused riots in Paris. Its unprecedented, raw eroticism and pagan sexuality shocked the cultural world, and sent throbbing, lusty vibrations half way around the planet to inspire the quietly gestating baby Jimmy.

About 40 years later, Broughton would echo Stravinsky's "sound of Eros rattling the cage of the modern world" by moving to Paris with his lover — escaping the McCarthy era at home — and publishing a gloriously scandalous book of poetry, *An Almanac for Amorists*.

In *Almanac* Broughton praised love — the physical at least as much as the romantic, without accepting the separation of the two. He also pictured a world straining for freer thought, greater honesty, and more sensual contact:

*How sweats lobster brain for a trumpet
How aches leopard mask to burst into bird
How thwarts the frost flesh, cracks icicle heart,
quakes wide the whole bodily earth — Now
to bloom Alp, erupt sea, and God dance!*

—from *Aria* for Adonis, Sotto Voce

By that time, Broughton had already made six poetic films, becoming a co-parent with Jean Cocteau of the art form. He had also found some success as a playwright, even winning a Pheasant Art Award for one play, *The Playground*. And, he had published two previous volumes of poetry.

While his earliest films and poems might not be considered "gay art," they were Free Verse, in the most extreme sense possible, and they were deliciously full of the nonsense-logic that eventually made Broughton the



James Broughton, looking in or out, glancing back or seeing the future, all of the above (Photo: J. Singer)

"Prince of Oxymoron" and the "Poet Laureate of the State of Ecstasy."

*Now I know of no comfy waterproof closet
for hanging up the drenches and drying out the dregs.
Though I always kept my thumb up to pull in a plum,
though I still keep my wheel-chair on a ten foot pole,
I have no cozy forecasts for a pat new world.*

—from *The Ballad of Mad Jenny*

Just as *The Rite of Springs* signaled the dawn of a majestic eroticism in 1913, there were signs that the *enfant fantastique*, James Broughton, would use both poetry and film to animate his vision of a world Hermetically Unsealed and sexually playful: The poetry of Ezra Pound was being secretly circulated when Broughton was born, and Rilke

was working on his most important volume, *The Duino Elegies*. Maybe more to the point, America had just begun a love affair with the poetry of Amy Lowell, an absolutely out-of-the-closet dyke who cursed in public, smoked cigars, and proudly lived with a woman she called her wife.

As for film, Broughton's participation in the founding of art cinema was the most natural thing in the world. After all, he and film grew up together. In 1913, the first feature-length film ever to be shown in America was on tour, *Queen Elizabeth*, starring Sarah Bernhardt.

Broughton remembers that when he was very young, building castles and forts with other children in San Francisco's many vacant lots, he was never taken to movie theaters. But, he had one crazy uncle who loved the slapstick comedies of Max Sennett.

So, the uncle rented the one- and two-reel films and showed them in his home. As late as 1953, when Broughton made his now-classic film *The Pleasure Garden* in England, the effect of these zany comedies was still powerfully visible in his work.

Now, on the threshold of his 75th year, Broughton can look back on a lifetime of influences and achievements with pride. He has become the great body-builder of the soul, the eroticizer of ordinary life, and the praise singer of the unmentionable:

*Nipples and cocks
nipples and cocks
Nothing tickles the palate like
nipples and cocks . . .*

*No need to be fancy
or unorthodox
Just try a plain diet of
nipples and cocks*

*As things are now
everyone is mad
asleep or
on the wrong bus*

*Don't only stick out your neck
Stick out your tongue as well
Stick out your cock too
Stick out all you've got
And stick it out to the end
—from Graffiti for the Johns
of Heaven*

Next year, in celebrating his diamond jubilee, the gay community of San Francisco will be joining the art community of the world in praising and reviewing James Broughton. He will have a new film — his last, he says — and at least three new books out before the end of the year, adding details and updates to his already incredible body of life-affirming, self-disclosing work.

In fact, while building up a tremendous reputation in England, Europe, and New York — with more than 20 books published and a similar number of films released, as well as a collection of audio tapes and broadsides — Broughton has become somewhat ignored, if not forgotten, in the Bay Area. That fact is both strange and understandable.

It is strange because Broughton is easily the least mysterious gay celebrity in the world. If anyone thinks Broughton has any secrets or practices any subterfuge, it's only because that person has not seen the films or read the books in which the artist exposes himself, down to his most tightly closed orifice.

And, it is understandable because we have to ask ourselves what we are to do, in the age of AIDS, with the prophet of polymorphous pleasure, the man named by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "Saint James of the Flying Phallus." Actually, there is no question about what to do with James Broughton, none whatever. The only thing to do is enjoy him, thank whatever gods you admire that he is here, and has been here all along, defining the spiritual dimensions of our sexuality and discovering the erotic roots of our spirituality. •

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Restaging Balanchine

Following The Dance Steps of the Father of Neoclassical Ballet

by Keith White

Probably no field of 20th century artistic endeavor can claim a single acknowledged master such as the late George Balanchine was to ballet. Balanchine's genius was apparent very early; at 21 he was engaged by Serge Diaghilev as a dancer and, more importantly, choreographer for the Ballets Russes. But it was for the New York City Ballet, the company Balanchine co-founded and directed for 35 years, that the majority of his more than 170 ballets were created.

The New York City Ballet developed a stylistic insularity and gained international recognition as Balanchine streamlined classical ballet style to suit his particular esthetic. American neoclassical ballet was born, and the NYCB audience has considered itself the most privileged and cultivated ballet audience in the world. But Balanchine also proved to be the most generous of modern choreographers, allowing the restaging of many of his works on practically every company capable of mastering the steps, and not charging royalties for the privilege.

Today there is a growing controversy surrounding the preservation of the Balanchine repertory. Balanchine was famous for changing his choreography — and forgetting it. He sometimes tired of certain passages over the years, and frequently changed steps to accommodate the abilities of particular dancers as new casts succeeded original ones, sometimes making changes minutes before the curtain rose on performances. In cases where time constraints prevented him from finishing a ballet to his complete satisfaction, he would simply stop work and premiere the



The American Ballet Theatre's version of *Theme and Variations*

ballet as it was, taking up the task again later to "fix" it. Several important ballets have been forgotten completely, but successful attempts have been made to resurrect them, the most notable being *Divertimento* (1947), reconstructed from memory for the Kansas City Ballet in 1985 by Francisco Moncion, with some assistance from Tanaquil LeClerc, who owns the rights to it. But a much newer work, *Figure in the Carpet* (1960), seems to have been completely forgotten, like a dream of a ballet that never really happened.

The arrival of Balanchine's ballets on the West Coast coincided with Lew Christensen's appointment as co-artistic director of the San Francisco Ballet in 1951. Christensen, who had danced for Balanchine and served as ballet master in two of

his American companies, Ballet Society and the New York City Ballet, began his tenure in San Francisco with the idea of establishing an exchange between the two companies. During the early '50s the New York City Ballet and the San Francisco Ballet shared both repertory and soloists in an arrangement NYCB has never repeated, though Balanchine and his ballets figured prominently in the establishment of many ballet companies around the world.

One of the first Balanchine works danced by the San Francisco Ballet was *Concerto Barocco*, and dancer Jim Sohm believes SFB still owns the original Eugene Berman backdrop for *Barocco*, designed in the early '40s for the brief-lived American Ballet Caravan (an earlier Balanchine enterprise) and probably acquired between 1951, the year in which the New York City Ballet abandoned the use of the costumes and set, and 1952, when it was first danced in San Francisco. *Concerto Barocco* is a perfect example of the confusion surrounding the process of restaging Balanchine's ballets, a "chaos," as former NYCB ballet master John Taras predicted it, that has intensified since Balanchine's death in 1983. When SFB revived *Concerto Barocco* for its 1984 performances at the Ravinia Festival, it revived a version of the ballet so old that veteran stager Francia Russell claimed it contained steps she had never seen anywhere (though the set and costumes had long since been discarded and the ballet was being performed in practice clothes, as had become standard at NYCB). Susan Pilarre, a recently retired NYCB soloist, came to San Francisco and brought the ballet up to date for SFB's 1985 San Francisco season.

For the most part Balanchine devoted his efforts to his own company, though after the establishment of the Pennsylvania Ballet in 1963 he traveled to Philadelphia often during the early years, directing most of the rehearsals of *Concerto Barocco* there. Former NYCB dancer Patricia Neary maintained a close relationship with Balanchine during her tenures with the Geneva and Zurich Ballets, and he occasionally supervised final rehearsals for her and for Fran-

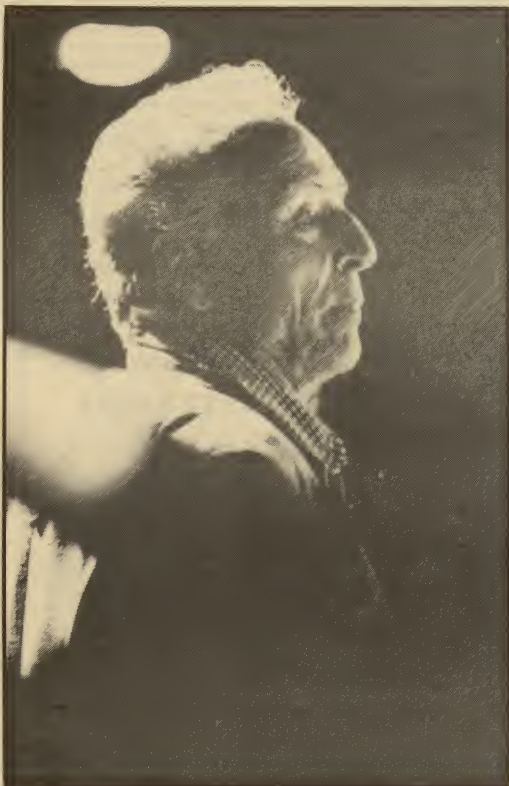
cia Russell, when Russell served as ballet mistress at the Frankfurt Ballet. But these were exceptional cases, and Balanchine's direct participation in the restaging of his ballets became exceedingly rare. Yet, as NYCB alumni found themselves directing companies in every corner of the world, the ballets, staged by hand-picked representatives, began to disseminate rapidly. In 1958, Robert Barnett left NYCB to join the Atlanta Ballet (then America's oldest regional company) and immediately staged the second act of Balanchine's *Nutcracker*, which became, in its eventual full-length version, one of the most successful regional ballet productions ever mounted.

During Balanchine's lifetime he is said to have personally delegated every restaging assignment, a responsibility now assumed by his former assistant and the administratrix of his estate, Barbara Horgan. The list

of companies run by NYCB alumni and featuring Balanchine ballets is by now too long to name, and the repertory remains in the care of three generations of staggers who, in many cases, teach slightly different versions of the same ballet. This was true even before Balanchine's death, and his response to it ranged from insistence to nonchalance — more often the latter. During the late '70s Balanchine decided to delete the entire prologue of *Apollo*, apparently wishing it to be deleted in every company where the ballet was performed, a request that has been honored against the protests of what seems like a majority of fans who revered the older version. But there were evidently few ballets about which the choreographer felt so strongly. Victoria Simon, who has probably restaged more productions of Balanchine ballets than any other single stager, recalls asking Balanchine, after he had added a new section of dancing to *Serenade*, whether he wished her to learn the new steps to teach to a company on which she was about to stage it for the first time. His reply was, "Oh, it doesn't matter. Teach whatever you know."

The fans of Balanchine's choreography care most how it is performed, and none are less flexible than members of the New York City Ballet audience. *Stravinsky Violin Concerto* is staged by Karin von Aroldingen, who originally created a principal role in it and to whom Balanchine subsequently gave the performance rights (a tribute he paid to a number of individuals over the years). Reactions to von Aroldingen's work during the last 12 months have varied amazingly. Performances by American Ballet Theatre were thought to be clearly under par, while both the Paris Opera Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet were greatly admired by NYCB fans who saw

(Continued on page 72)



George Balanchine



George Balanchine shows a dancer how to wilt properly at the NYCB

Does Your Mother Know?

Gay Comedy Is Alive And Well In 1987

by Wendell Ricketts

To avoid unpleasantness in conversation, goes the familiar advice, never discuss religion, sex, or politics. If comedians followed that etiquette, however, most of San Francisco's comedy clubs would instantly fall silent. Popular comics often say the things we'd like to say but dare not — or the things we ought to say but don't. According to comedian Danny Williams, twice nominated for a Cabaret Gold award and winner of the 1987 Cable Car Entertainer of the Year award, "Comedy is inherently subversive." If that is so, gay comedy may be the most subversive of all.

But does anyone agree what constitutes gay comedy? San Francisco comedian Marga Gomez offers one perspective: "The main element of what people call 'gay comedy,'" she says, "is that you don't ridicule oppressed people." She pauses a moment, then grins, "Well, at least not unless you belong to the group you're picking on!"

That advice has not kept her entirely safe from criticism. When she appeared at the Golden Gate Park Comedy Day last year, focusing on her Hispanic material, two men told her it was wrong to do "those jokes" for white audiences. The line they considered most offensive? "I think we need more Hispanics on television," Gomez had quipped. "And that's why I play the lottery."

For Gomez, who is Puerto Rican, the joke pointed out that real Hispanics are virtually absent from television. "Most of the Hispanics you see on television shows are actually Italian," Gomez explains, "but one day I turned on the lottery show, and there were all these Hispanics. And it pissed me off!" The criticism she received after Comedy Day, however, came as a shock. Since then Gomez has used less



Danny Williams always makes a spectacular entrance

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

of her Hispanic material, except when she performs at Latin clubs. There crowds love the jokes — and the perspective — that come out of Gomez' own cultural and ethnic background.

Similarly, Gomez is willing to tone down her gay material for "mainstream" comedy clubs. That, too, has earned her criticism — this time from within the lesbian and gay community. But, unlike comics who are more intent on using their gay material, Gomez has received a warmer welcome from so-called straight clubs. "The way I see it," says Gomez, "I can either file for Kelly Girls, or I can have some nice, safe material that I can use (to get work) in the mainstream clubs."

According to the Other Cafe's Chip Romer, Gomez has a "wide range and appeal." But when a straight club owner says that about a comic, observes Tom Ammiano, "all it means is that a comedian doesn't do their gay

shit." Ammiano, sometimes affectionately known as the "Mother of Gay Comedy," has been one of the most uncompromising of San Francisco's gay comics. The originator of the Valencia Rose's Gay Comedy Open Mike, Ammiano is in a unique position to reflect on the controversy surrounding comedians who do or do not perform openly as lesbian or gay. "For comics who are gay and not out — that's a personal choice," Ammiano says. "But it doesn't help anything. No change comes from that. The ability to bring your perspective as a gay man or woman into your routines is important — partly because it's innovative and partly because of the whole thing that Harvey Milk was talking about, 'Come out, come out, wherever you are.' That's the best thing you could do."

But one essential aspect of some comedians' reluctance to be known as "gay comics" has to do with the question of who gets

to do the labeling. When the owner of a mainstream club applies that label in a diminishing, categorizing way, gay comics' hackles are sure to go up. Says Williams, "A significant portion of my material is gay-oriented, and I have no intention of denying that heritage. It's just that you always hear people called 'black comic' or 'woman comic' or 'gay comic' — never 'male comic' or 'straight comic.' It's as if real comedy is straight white men talking, and everything else is 'specialty' comedy. I'm perfectly willing to be known as 'gay comic, Danny Williams' just as soon as I start seeing (someone like) Sam Kinison billed as 'straight white comic.'"

Doug Holsclaw, perhaps best known as co-director of *The AIDS Show* and author of the widely acclaimed comedy *Life of the Party*, has been performing his stand-up routines for almost four years. He hasn't had the problems some comics have ex-

perienced getting into mainstream clubs, he admits, because he hasn't really tried to perform there. "For me," he says, "stand-up has always been sort of a hobby. And I have great respect for people who want to do cross-over, because it's a lot of work." Still, he adds cautiously, "If you choose to be in a string quartet and play chamber music, then maybe you can't complain if you're not on MTV. A string quartet could package itself and make a video to try to get more people to appreciate chamber music, but it's an uphill battle."

Uphill or not, it's a battle Ammiano is willing to wage. "Straight comedians can be straight on stage and it doesn't seem to limit them," he points out. "All we're talking about is balance. People will deny to the end that it can be done. But, eventually, it'll arrive. Tenacity is the key. People still come up to me and say, 'So-and-so told me I shouldn't be gay or I'll never have a career as a comedian, and what should I do?' I say I'm gay and I'm doing what I'm doing, and I don't think it's so bad. Watch and see."

★ ★ ★

Nearly two years have passed since the Valencia Rose, San Francisco's self-proclaimed lesbian and gay cultural center, closed its door. The last stage light had barely dimmed, however, when the rumor began to circulate that openly gay performing artists had been left stranded and unemployed by the Rose's demise. For lesbian and gay audiences, who valued the Rose as a venue for some exceptional cabaret, theater, and comedy performances, the rumor was especially distressing.

Meanwhile, some 14 blocks away, the Baybrick Inn quietly guarded one of San Francisco's best-kept entertainment secrets.

(Continued on page 72)

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BOOKS

Confessions.....of a Gay Priest

Editor's Note: The following excerpt is from *Kairos: Confessions of a Gay Priest*, copyright © 1987 by Zalmon O. Sherwood (Alyson Publications, Boston, MA).

In 1985 Zalmon O. Sherwood, an Episcopalian priest, decided to come out as a gay man. In these letters to a close friend from seminary, Sherwood chronicles that process.

Southern Pines, NC
Oct. 11, 1984

Dear Stephen,

I've been trying to reach you by telephone for days, and this morning I received your short note announcing that you've moved in with Minos. But Stephen, you just met the man! Are you sure you're doing the right thing? I mean, you have always accused me of moving too fast, and here, after less than a week of knowing Minos, you have moved into his Athens apartment. What is so special about this Greek architect, that he is able to win you over so quickly, you who have written repeatedly to me this past year how committed you are to your teaching and writing, and that you have given up on men? Then suddenly, Minos appears in your life! If I sound the least bit concerned, please know that I am also very happy for you. But how I wish I could meet Minos, check him out, talk to him and make sure that he will be a good lover to my best friend. Your description of him is too good to be true. Please send me a photograph of him, and have him take one of you, too. Thanks for your new address, but in your next letter, please include your phone number.

How I envy you being in a relationship! Mark was here for five days at the end of last month, just before he left for Vienna. We had such a wonderful reunion that I was tempted to resign my job and follow him to Europe. He loved Southern Pines and the parish. We played a lot of tennis (I've become a decent player since I took a few lessons — more on this later), and one afternoon we played golf (I'm terrible, but Mark loves the game) with (are you sitting down?) my parents. I suppose they approve of Mark because like my father, he is a physician. Mom and Dad cooked a great meal for us that evening, and took us for a moonlight cruise on their boat around the lake. I'm deeply moved when I consider how hard they tried, and how successful they were, in accepting Mark. If my parents can accept him, then why can't I?

Mark attended church on Sunday and heard me preach on Isaiah 5:1 — "Let me sing for my beloved a love song concerning his vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill." Drawing on my experience of growing up on a vineyard in Ohio, I preached on God's celebration of fertility, sensuality and humility both in nature and in our flesh. That afternoon Mark accompanied me on my hospital rounds, but he lost his nerve when it came to attending a youth group meeting, even though the teenagers would have enjoyed meeting him. I did have a small dinner party (Mark did most of the cooking) for six of my single friends (two of whom are gay), who think I am crazy for separating from him.



Zal Sherwood, author of *Kairos: Confessions of a Gay Priest*
(Photo: S. Piersol)

Some days I do, too. I do miss Mark, but I still believe it's important that I continue training as a priest in this place, without the demands of a full-time relationship. I feel blessed to have made some gay friends here, but all of them are closeted and harbor so much guilt about being gay. And you should hear them whine! Why Southern men feel compelled to whine so much I shall never understand. Then again, if oppression pervaded every aspect of my life, and if I didn't know how to cope with it, then I, too, would start whining.

I am in the midst of my first Southern love affair with a tennis pro named Justin who teaches at one of the better clubs. Several weeks ago, after I lost a match to a parishioner, the parishioner sent me a gift certificate for three private lessons with Justin. He is so gorgeous (age 33, 5'10", curly brown hair and green eyes which remind me of you) that the evening I arrived for my first lesson, I could barely tell him my name let alone swing a racket. He didn't have much difficulty talking me into taking three additional lessons, and my game really has improved, as well as my love life. He asked me to join him for dinner after our third lesson, and by the fifth lesson, we had made love at his condominium.

Justin watched Mark and me play tennis one afternoon. Mark beat me, but I had the pleasure of introducing him to "my Pinehurst lover." Mark was not amused. Not only is he jealous, he accuses me of using Justin, "like you've used every other man you've ever fucked." I am not using Justin. There is no coercion involved. When I am making love with Justin, I experience tenderness, joy, respect, compassion and grace, all gifts from God who empowers me to share such gifts with my parishioners. Indeed, it is my sexuality that provides me with the energy required for ministry, for communion and life.

This past week was our annual fall diocesan clergy retreat in Greensboro, North Carolina. I

was surprised to meet seven other gay priests in this diocese, and those priests tell me there are a lot more gay clergy in North Carolina. All these gay priests (even the ones who came out to me) seem overly concerned with maintaining a self-image of heterosexuality. Most of the gay clergy are married. One gay priest, a cardinal rector of a large Raleigh parish, sent shivers down my spine when he said matter-of-factly, "Don't worry, probably before next fall, you will be married, too." In addition to social acceptance, domestic reasons and family pressure, these priests believe marriage provides social advancement in the Church.

One evening during the three-day retreat, I met in a suite of rooms with a group of young clergy from the diocese. The scene reminded me of something akin to a fraternity house — a group of young men sitting around, drinking beer, cracking dirty jokes and laughing raucously. I had a difficult time understanding much of their Southern humor, but I attribute that to feeling somewhat tired after a day of meeting so many priests. In fact, I was only half-listening when the conversation turned to the topic of homosexuality. I missed hearing some sarcastic remarks about some priest suspected of being gay, but I was fully alert in time to hear a priest tell a gay AIDS joke, after which I announced that I was gay and have friends who are dying from AIDS, and that I objected to vicious gossip and hurtful jokes pertaining to homosexuality.

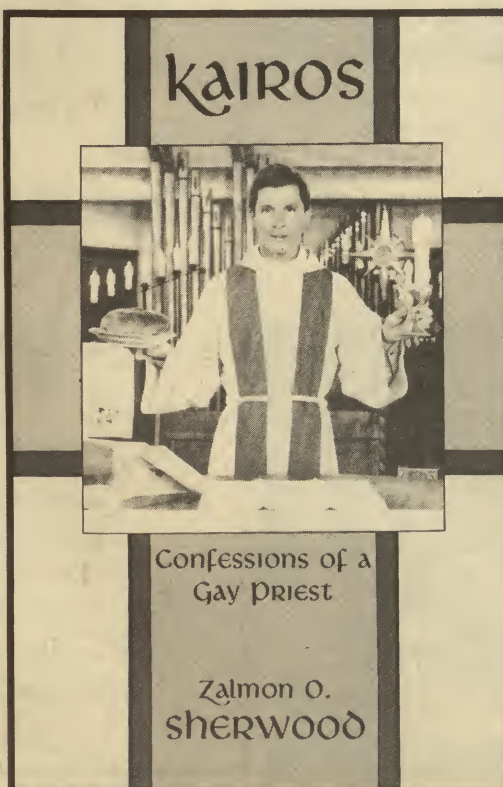
After several moments of stunned silence, the priest who told the joke apologized to me, and the group began discussing professional football ratings. After a while, I excused myself and began walking outdoors. Another priest, a young rector of a prominent parish in the central part of the diocese, joined me. He invited me to his room for a chat, confessed his homosexuality to me (this man is married to a Southern beauty queen and has three young children), and proceeded to make a pass at me. You know me well enough to know that I would never stoop so low as to sleep with a married man, let alone a priest. He was incredibly persistent in his sexual advances and when I became angry (and even a bit frightened) and began to leave, he retaliated by stating that I would never get very far professionally as a gay priest in this diocese, and that I had better "face reality" and stay in the closet like all the other gay priests.

There appears to be some tacit agreement among gay clergy to remain closeted, to screw their brother priests during these seasonal retreats, to engage in furtive, anonymous sex in bookstores or restrooms in cities near their parishes. Many diocesan clergy have expressed hostility toward me, not only because I refuse to sleep with them, but because I am at ease with my homosexuality and appear to be popular with my parishioners. Indeed, it is remarkable how many parishioners have been able to accept my gayness, given the homophobic clergy's reluctance to discuss any issues of human sexuality. The argument many priests give against educational programs about homosexuality is that the laity cannot handle such a controversial subject. Nonsense! I've been at Emmanuel long enough to know that both my teenage and adult parishioners are quite capable of grappling with this issue. It's the closeted gay clergy and bishops who suppress such educational programs, because they realize the more people learn about homosexuality, the greater likelihood that these same priests and bishops will be exposed in all their arrogance, self-righteousness, dishonesty and hypocrisy.

I'm glad your teaching is going so well this year. Remember how we seminarians used to dread youth work, how we considered it nothing more than glorified babysitting? And yet there you are, teaching English at a Greek secondary school while I travel with 40 teenagers and four adult advisors to Myrtle Beach for a weekend retreat. I actually look forward to parish youth meetings and events. I am blessed with a group of adult advisors who assist me in planning programs and are committed to providing youths with the space and freedom to explore issues of faith, relationships, decision-making and responsibility. Since we welcome and encourage youths from different denominations and faiths to participate, we do not insist that everyone join in Bible study or worship activities. We spend a lot of time discussing our varieties of religious experience, but our main purpose is to share in friendship, recreation, community building and outreach.

The youth group has a strong sense of justice, love and respect for all people. It hurts them to see anyone viewed or treated unjustly. Upon discovering an injustice, they will demand in disbelief, "Why isn't anyone doing anything about that?" and, after some thought and prayer, they proceed to take action to serve people in need. They have learned, at such an early age, to care about God, to care about something or someone, to accept their responsibility for the welfare of every other living being. They question the relevance and purpose of any program the advisors and I introduce. I admire their constant critical gaze, their directness and spontaneity, their aversion for religious sham of any sort, their insistence that we be authentic in all that we do, in all that we believe, in the ways we love.

With my love,
Zal ●



Lesbian / Gay / PROUD / Film / STRONG / Video / UNITED / Festival

The 11th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival has saved some of the best for last, including the video portion of the Festival. It would be a good time to be able to clone yourself — if clones weren't out of fashion — so you could be in two places at once.

One is the Castro Theater, where Festival films run through Saturday. The best lesbian film of the year, Brazil's *Vera*, repeats Friday at 10. The best lesbian film of 1985, the World War II romance *Novembermoon*, encores Saturday at 7, when filmmaker Alexandra von Grote receives the Frameline award.

Outrageous Spaniard Pedro Almodóvar, the name that's becoming a household word among Festivalgoers this week, has three more films on view: the unpreviewed *Labyrinth of Passion* (6/25, 8 p.m.), and his latest, the closing-night feature, *Law of Desire* (6/27, 9:30 p.m.), which we'll review next week when it opens a Kabuki run. For now we'll tell you *Law* is not all as good as its sensational first half-hour, but it's still worth seeing.

Local filmmaker Marc Huestis is flying back from Germany, where he and Wendy Dallas have been touring with *Chuck Solomon: Coming of Age*, for a retrospective (6/27, 4 p.m.) which includes *Coming of Age*; the magnificent 1978 short *Unity*, about a reunion of gay lovers who survived the Holocaust; and the 1982 feature *Whatever Happened to Susan Jane?* with Ann

A scene from *Vera*

Block (*Pulp and Circumstance*) as the Virginia housewife who takes a walk on the wild side when she visits an old classmate in San Francisco. Between fabulous '50s flashbacks and an endless parade of drag queens and other avant-gardists, almost no time is left for the plot, but a lot of it is fun.

As for the other films, we reported last week on as many as we've seen, other than Tina DeFeliciano's *Living with AIDS*, the story of a young San Francisco man and his support systems.

VENI, VIDEO, VICI

Videos will be shown Thursday through Saturday at Video Free America, 442 Shotwell (near 18th), and Sunday at the Roxie Cinema, 16th near Valencia. We'll cover the Roxie shows first for simplicity's sake.

Gertrude Stein and a Companion (5:30 p.m.), which aired on the Bravo channel this month, made me appreciate *Waiting for the Moon*. It's more factual and lets the women declare their love for each other — still without getting physical — but it lacks that off-the-wall warmth. Jan

Miner is a more sympathetic Stein, but Marian Seldes is a pathetic Toklas — I missed the spine Linda Hunt gave her. Stein fans will want to see this one too, and some may prefer it.

In *Hail the New Puritan* (7:30 p.m.), director Charles Atlas lays his own sophomoric layer of creativity over that of his subject, classically trained, modern British choreographer Michael Clark. From the bits and pieces we see of Clark's work he's better than Twyla Tharp — and certainly gayer. If you're into modern dance this is worth seeing, no thanks to Atlas.

Crimes Against Nature (9:30 p.m.) sounds almost prophetic when an introductory line describes it as "... the story of how people can take care of one another and build a support system that's going to be an alternative to the way our society has alienated and separated individuals." The ten members of the Gay Men's Theatre Collective go on to tell their personal stories which, while the overall emphasis is on survival, concentrate on the unpleasantness each has survived. Many of us can relate — if only nostalgically — to the agonies of a decade ago, but there's as much negativity here as in *The Boys in the Band*. Yesterday's breakthroughs are tomorrow's anachronisms, and some legends live better in memory.

The best of the new videos I've previewed is *Across the Rubicon* (6/27, 7 p.m.). It's also the least gay. Both a serious documentary and a satire on apartheid, it was made by Pieter-Dirk Uys, a gay, Jewish, white Afrikaaner who's a cross between Mark Russell and Benny Hill, and apparently popular enough to get away with speaking the truth in a country where "Hypocrisy is the Vaseline of social intercourse."

"Assertions" (6/27, 2 p.m.) consists of *We Are Family*, a more political, East Coast version of *Not All Parents Are Straight*, in which Gov. Dukakis loses the gay vote by speaking against the placement of children in gay foster homes; and *Rights and Reactions*, a work in progress about the public hearings on New York's gay rights bill. Both

(Continued on next page)

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Warren

(Continued from previous page)

sides are as vicious and impassioned as only New Yorkers can be, making the video lively but in great need of structuring.

"Women Also Make Videos" (6/25, 7 p.m.) includes more on those New York hearings in *Just Because of Who We Are*, which focuses on violence and discrimination against lesbians; *Alternative Conceptions*, the why and how of donor insemination from a lesbian viewpoint; and *Labor More than Once*, the moving story of a custody battle.

Framed Youth: The Revenge of the Teenage Perverts (6/27, 11 a.m., with *He's Like and Homosexuality: What Science Understands*) was made by London's Lesbian and Gay Youth Video Project and shows they're no worse than their elders when given a videocam to play with.

For sheer, horny fun you can't beat *How to Seduce a Preppy* (6/26, 9 p.m., with six other shorts under the "Camping and Fishing" umbrella), an episode of the New York cable *City Heights Closet Case Show*. It's as silly and self-indulgent as anything in the Festival I've criticized for those reasons, but it happens to hit my wavelength. Host Rick X rambles on the soundtrack while the sweet young thing he's lured to his apartment/studio gradually loses his clothing and whatever. The show kids the limits of cable TV while stretching them.

On the serious side, a number of videos deal with AIDS. The three in the "AIDS: The Real and Unreal" program (6/27, 4:40 p.m.) include *A Plague on You*, a British review of press coverage and public opinion which gives at



The Gay Men's Theater Collective of San Francisco in *Crimes Against Nature*

least equal time to the homophobic viewpoint and draws parallels with plagues of old; and a portrait of San Franciscan Peter Siegler made for television in his native Germany which changed the way that country views the disease. With the subjects of last year's AIDS videos — Chuck Solomon, David Summers, and Todd Campbell — all dead, it's good to have Peter proclaim *I'm Still Alive*, and planning to shoot a sequel in the fall.

The videos are generally longer on information than entertainment, and their technical quality overall is higher than that of many films in this year's Festival.

There's enough good stuff on view that your problem this weekend won't be deciding whether to go to the Festival, but whether to go to the Castro or Video Free America at any given time.

FOR DIEHARDS

If you're not moved out by the end of the week, the UC in Berkeley is reviving Paul Morrissey's classics with Joe Dallesandro, *Trash* and *Heat*, Monday only.

Sunday and Monday the Castro features two of the three funniest women alive, Bette Midler in *Outrageous Fortune* (the first half of which is nonstop laughs)

and Whoopi Goldberg in *Jumping Jack Flash*, designed as a showcase for her and effective on that level. Those are followed Tuesday and Wednesday by *Black Widow*, the serious side of female bonding, and the quasi-minor Hitchcock, *The Bedroom Window*.

NEW LINE ON 'TORCH SONG TRILOGY'

The film version of *Torch Song Trilogy*, it has been announced, will "definitely" start shooting in September. Of course, if you could believe every story like this you read, you'd be in line for *The Front Runner VI* by now.

At least there's no question of who will play the lead. The first and only choice has always been author Harvey Fierstein.

New Line Cinema, which is bankrolling the \$5 million production out of its profits from the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series, is also behind John Waters' currently filming *Hairspray*, with Divine and Deborah Harry. The budget is \$3.5 million, enough for John to leave Baltimore — but I'm betting he won't.

In addition to *Nightmare IV* and *Critters II*, New Line announced at Cannes it will come to San Francisco in October to make a "loose adaptation" of the 1966 black comedy *Morgan*, this one more music-oriented.

JO SPRINGS MATERNAL

If Cineplex Odeon Films retains the artwork for Paul Newman's film of *The Glass Menagerie* that was in a recent Variety ad, the poster will be a major lesbian collector's item. Joanne Woodward has her arms around Karen Allen and her head on Allen's shoulder. Allen's back is to the camera, the top of a slip showing through her blouse. It's a beautiful picture, and its impact will hardly be diminished by the fact that the women play mother and daughter in this new version of Tennessee Williams' semi-autobiographical play. ●

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Co-Producing Porgy And Bess

Last November's decision to cancel the San Francisco Opera's summer seasons caught many locals by surprise. In its original design, Terry McEwen's 1987 summer season was meant to focus attention on four operas written during the 20th century: Puccini's *Golden Girl of The West*, Strauss' *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*, and Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Many Bay Area opera queens are still wondering why the *Porgy and Bess* production (which originated in another city) was not abandoned along with the three other operas which comprised the ill-fated 1987 summer season. The answer goes far beyond the box-office appeal of George Gershwin's popular opera.

With this month's production of *Porgy and Bess*, the San Francisco Opera is participating in an exciting experiment in the arts. This season, using cost-saving techniques which could revolutionize the way grand opera is produced in America, more than a dozen opera companies have staged *Porgy and Bess* in cities across the United States. While this grand entrepreneurial adventure is, in effect, a revival of the Houston Grand Opera's Tony award-winning production which toured North America and Europe back in 1978, it also represents the largest joint venture ever attempted by members of Opera America, the professional service organization for producing opera companies.

REDUCING THE RISKS

The idea to revive *Porgy and Bess* first began festering in David Cockley's mind when he realized that the Houston Grand Opera was approaching the tenth anniversary of its 1976 staging of Gershwin's masterpiece; a production which netted his company both national and international acclaim. Eager to share production costs with other impresarios, Cockley wrote to the heads of 25 opera companies whom he felt might want to include *Porgy and Bess* in their repertoire and could also afford to participate in a co-production. Outlining the dimensions of the project, he asked which companies would be interested in joining forces with him. The response to his letter exceeded his wildest expectations.

An important factor in the project was Cockley's previous success at producing *Porgy and Bess* since, in recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain production rights. The Gershwin estate (whose motivations are not necessarily financial) has become more and more dissatisfied with the caliber of certain productions and — because the remaining relatives of George and Ira Gershwin are well aware of how each production of *Porgy and Bess* is assembled — wields the power to make an artistic statement through its licensing of performance rights.

SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT

Shared productions are hardly a new phenomenon in the opera world. Indeed, the success of several previous operatic joint ventures has soundly demonstrated that, in the course of co-producing an opera, all parties can reap handsome benefits. Audiences in multiple cities can be



Clamma Dale and Mic Bell will star in the San Francisco Opera's presentation of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*

exposed to top-quality productions of rarely performed operas. Singers who are familiar with a traveling package (and who can arrive in town for rehearsals already knowing most of the stage direction) are capable of building a stronger ensemble in fewer rehearsal hours by working with colleagues who have already appeared in the same production. Impresarios have the surety of presenting a proven product to their subscribers without taking the risk of building a new production from scratch. Last, but certainly not least, the bottom-line people on each company's board of directors can rest assured that opera is being produced within a framework of fiscal responsibility.

The proof lies in past performances. In recent seasons, the San Francisco Opera's productions of Handel's *Orlando* and Verdi's *Falstaff* (1985) were projects whose costs were shared with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. 1984's *Anna Bolena* with Dame Joan Sutherland in the title role was, in reality, a traveling roadshow of Donizetti's bel canto opera made possible by a joint venture between the opera companies of Toronto, Detroit, Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco. San Francisco Opera's sets and costumes for Puccini's *Turandot* (a production whose initial costs were shared with the Greater Miami Opera Association, the Dallas Opera, and the Houston Grand Opera), has not only amortized its costs, but generated additional income through rental fees paid by opera companies in Detroit, Montreal, and Louisville, Kentucky.

CUTTING COST

In many ways, the *Porgy and Bess* project evolved because the same tough economics which contributed to the demise of the San Francisco Opera's summer season forced a new spirit of cooperation upon the nation's operatic community.

"There's nothing like hard times to make people start working together," snickers the project's coordinator, Anne Tom-

fahrd. "Opera is the most labor intensive and, therefore, most expensive art form known to man. At present, no opera company in the United States can rest assured of clearing its deficit or staying afloat. That knowledge has helped everyone face the music and understand that the key to surviving the economic hardships of the 1980s may lie in working together."

Although 1987's *Porgy and Bess* project was by no means designed as a profit-making venture, with production costs being split 14 ways each participating opera company has been spared the nightmare of having to raise huge amounts of money.

"Because *Porgy and Bess* is an extremely expensive opera to mount, co-producing it with a number of other companies makes the idea financially much more attractive. If I had tried to produce this opera by myself, it would have cost at least \$750,000. This way, my investment is only about \$150,000," stresses Speight Jenkins, General Director of the Seattle Opera.

This joint venture has proven that the opera world's power brokers are capable of putting the overall health and welfare of the nation's arts community above their own personal agendas.

"Prior to 1970, the idea of impresarios working together to improve their own opera companies — as well as the cause of opera in general — was considered contrary to their image as self-sustaining dictators of individual operatic fiefdoms," admits David DiChiera, the General Director of both Michigan Opera Theatre and the newly-formed Opera Pacific in Costa Mesa, California.

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—Marjorie Carne, 1959

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Lesbian Fiction

Have We Really Gotten Past The Coming-Out Novels?

by Dianne Gregory

Whodunits, spy novels, and historical fiction do not at first seem to be in the realm of lesbian writing, but all three of those genres are not beyond the reach of today's authors. Have we really gotten past the coming-out novels? Let us all bow towards the East and pray to goddess that it is so.

MURDER AT THE NIGHTWOOD BAR
by Katherine V. Forrest
Naiad Press, \$8.95

Katherine Forrest is an accomplished novelist — with five (counting this one) books to her credit and another scheduled for publication this year — who has grown beyond the coming-out story. Although her first novel, *Curious Wine*, 1983, was a charmingly written tale of two women discovering their sexuality and each other, she has since dabbled in science fiction (*Daughters of a Coral Dawn*, 1984) and with *Murder at the Nightwood Bar* delves into the whodunit for the second time. She is not one of those who writes the same novel over and over again with different settings.

Murder at the Nightwood Bar marks the re-appearance of detective Kate Delafield, who was introduced in *Amateur City* in 1984. Kate is a little older and a little wiser now, both from her personal and her professional experiences. She's a good cop who both rails against and works within police department guidelines.

This time around Kate, with her hopelessly crude partner Ed Taylor, investigates the murder of Dory Quillan, a 19-year-old drifter with the face of an angel found dead in the parking lot of a lesbian bar in Los Angeles. The trail

takes a circuitous route through West Hollywood back to the most basic of motives to an electrifying ending that — like with most good mystery novels — should have been perfectly obvious the whole time but isn't. The roadblocks and the red herrings that obscure the real story are well-crafted and utterly believable, which is just as they should be. And then, of course, there are Kate's own troubles...

Although Forrest's next effort, called *Dreams and Swords*, doesn't sound like a continuation of the life and career of Kate Delafield, I'm sure we haven't heard the last from her.

SISTERS OF THE ROAD
by Barbara Wilson
The Seal Press, \$8.95

Although *Sisters of the Road* could be loosely described as a mystery, Barbara Wilson's novel comes closer to a social worker's whodunit. It also marks the return of a sleuth to the printed page, although this time not in the form of a bona fide officer of the law but a rank amateur.

Murder in the Collective, which marked the advent of feminist detective Pam Nilsen, was an ill-conceived mystery that simply ended rather than came to any coherent conclusion. Perhaps the author was attempting to make a point, but the result was a sloppy concept. With *Sisters of the Road*, Wilson tells a more complete story that still conforms with the feminist ideal, or rather the lack of society's adherence to one.

This time Pam becomes entangled with two young runaways who live on and off the streets of Seattle, site of the infamous



Green River murders. She picks up a couple of kids hitchhiking and one of them turns out to be fatally wounded. Thus begins a saga that takes Pam from the streets of Seattle to those of Portland and back again as she tries to make some sense of the girl's life and her untimely death, one which the police don't seem to give a hoot about. Along the way she meets a few (very few) people who are trying to help the runaways, or throwaways, who flock to every major metropolitan area in the U.S., trying to find the good life so elusive and yet as close as the nearest television set.

Sisters of the Road is a big improvement on *Murder in the Collective*, which is cause for some hope.

THE PEARLS
by Shelley Smith
Naiad Press, \$7.95

Murder mysteries okay. But a spy novel? Yes, it's true, ladies and gents, we have plunged into the depths and retrieved — *Simon and Simon*, *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*, *I, Spy*, *Mission Impossible*. With a twist, of course.

This novel is the second effort of two writers in the Boston area, the first (*Horizon of the Heart*, 1986) being a coming-out novel on a par with *Designing Women* or maybe *My Sister Sam*. This time around the two authors have clothed their coming-out story in the costume of espionage with a more intriguing result.

Harriet Pearl and Bunny Silver work for a sub-agency of the CIA and they both have something to prove. Their boss, the creepiest of creeps, assigns them to a case with the sole intent of making them fail, one that dictates that one of them pose as a man and the other as his wife. You can surmise the rest.

Its slickly packaged plot borders on *Fantasy Island*, but I'll wait for the duo's third novel before branding them the Danielle Steele of gay authors.

MAGDALENA
by Sarah Aldridge

recorded, what did she record?) that what should be a blockbuster character remains shadowy and unformed. Singing was supposedly this woman's life, so why be so vague about such a central issue?

Aldridge had the same problem with *Madame Aurora*, another of her novels. It was supposed to be set in the Washington, D.C. of the turn of the century, but none of the flavor of that time and place was given even though it was to revolutionize the way Americans thought of themselves.

Aldridge tells you that she is more informed than that by revealing in an author's note at the end of the book that *Magdalena* is "a lesbian echo of the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus." If she can write about Orpheus, why doesn't she write about *Orfeo ed Euridice*?

ZOE'S BOOK
by Gail Pass
Naiad Press, \$7.95

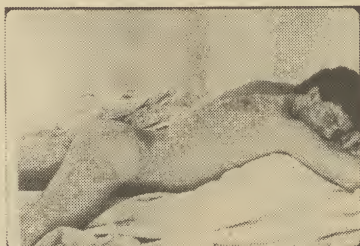
Zoe's Book is a beautifully written story with a twist at the end that will make you re-examine all that has gone before. It brings alive the characters of Bloomsbury at its height and imbues them with all of the colors of the rainbow.

A young woman, chosen from the patrons of the British museum, is brought to the ancient, infirm Zoe Mohr to hear her tale of bygone days. Although she resists at first, she learns about Julia Carroll, one of the most brilliant but unknown players among the luminaries of Bloomsbury, and Zoe's lover. She comes to fall in love with the ethereal Julia, but in the end — well, I won't give it away.

Written and published in the 1970s and re-published by Naiad this year, *Zoe's Book* clearly demonstrates the insight and story-telling talent of its author. Although Gail Pass restricts herself to non-fiction these days, the re-publication of her first novel is a gift to us all.



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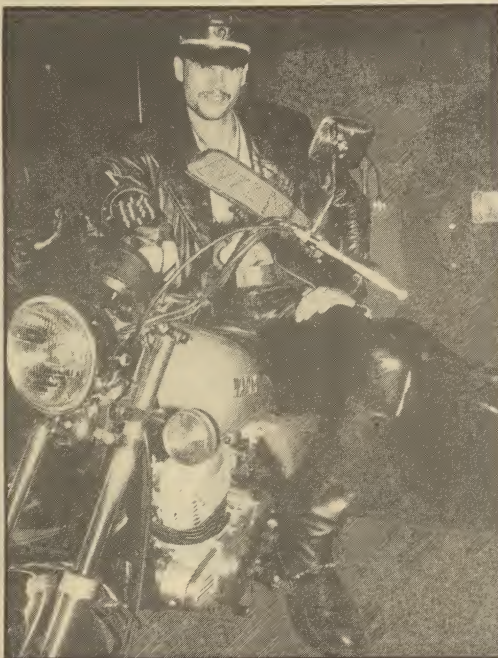
Celebrate Gay Pride In Leather

This Sunday thousands of gay men and women will step off at Market and Spear to celebrate gay pride. Among them will be large contingents of leather men and women from not only our town, but from all over the world, including Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch with runners-up Michel Rousse and Ken Gordon. In addition, the new Mr. Drummer and the other regional winners will appear on floats. The 1st Intl. Ms. Leather, Judy Tallwing McCarthy, will head the women leather titleholders, including Ms. SF Leather Shadow Morton. All this is but a prelude to the March on Washington later this year.

Thousands of man/woman hours went into this year's parade, expected to be one of the best ever. All along Market St., hotels fronting on the parade route are booked solid for those who would prefer to watch the parade from on high. With rooms going for as high as \$110, the festive spirit will not only be on the streets, but in the hotels and office buildings as well.

After the parade, parties abound all over town, including the big post-parade tea dance, Dreamland '87, with DJ Robbie Leslie of The Saint in NY spinning. At my deadline, it was confirmed that SF's favorite DJ, Bobby Vitteriti, would be there and possibly do a stunt on the turntables. Welcome home, Bobby! We certainly do miss you and hope the Big Apple is treating you right!

The lesbian Outcasts M/C is having a post-parade reception for all local and visiting S&M women; check out their booth in the Civic Center for the location. All around the town, celebratory parties will be taking place, and most of South-of-Market will be at the SF-Eagle, Powerhouse, New World, Watering Hole, Raw-



Intl. Mr. Leather Thomas Karasch will appear at the parade
(Photo: J. Sitar)

hide II, and the Stud. So have fun, take care, and celebrate with the thousands of brothers and sisters in town for our biggest community event ever!



It's been a busy week already and it's only Thursday! Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch flew in Friday and has been swooped all over town already.

Tuesday night, June 23, Mr. Karasch was the guest of honor at a reception with the Who's Who of Leather in attendance at the home of Mercury Mail Order magnate Pat Batt, co-hosting with Chuck and Richard of

M.E.N. Video. It was a fundraiser for the IML travel fund and the first showing of the Intl. Mr. Leather contest video from M.E.N., won by one of those in attendance.

Last night, Wed., the Mr. Drummer contestants were feted at a reception in their honor for the sponsors and press at Club DV8, and they made their acquaintance with the city and the leather community.

Tonight, Thursday, the Bare Chest Contest to name Mr. Oct. '88 on the calendar will see the first public showing of the Intl.

(Continued on next page)



Intl. Mr. Leather Thomas Karasch (c.), with first runner-up Michel Rousse (l.) and second runner-up Ken Gordon
(Photo: J. Sitar)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Mr. Leather video at 2030 hours, followed by the Bare Chest Contest with Mr. Drummer contestants as judges at the SF-Eagle.

On the other side of town, Sharon McNight opens in *Nun-sense* at Marines Memorial. At the Powerhouse from 8-11, it's the annual Fantasy & Fetish benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, with lots of esoteric action in the annual event by Alan Selby.

Friday, June 26, it's the Mr. Drummer Finals at Club DV8, with all the regional winners and one intl. invitee competing for the title. Former Mr. Drummers and former Intl. Mr. Leathers will be on hand, including Zeus models, who will strip for the highest bidders to raise money for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Chicago Howard Brown Memorial Clinic.

That same night, the GGBA has bought out the house at *Beach Blanket Babylon*; in the audience will be Al Parker celebrating his birthday. Happy Birthday, Al Parker!

There is a Black & White



Mark Friese (r.) gave a check to Bea Roman of the Shanti Project from the proceeds of the Tricycle Race (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

leather party at Elaine's on Guerrero for S&M women being put on by the Cogent Warriors M/C and the Corpse Grinders M/C (Corpse Grinders? Does the Forum know about this?)

On the northside of Market, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus is having a huge concert at the First Congregational Church. After the Drummer competition, the Winners Circle party is at the SF-Eagle.

Saturday will be busy too. From 1600 to 1900 there's a big leather gathering benefit at The Bear on Castro for CUV with a \$5 fee for beer, buffet, and entertainment. It should be quite festive as many/most of the local and visiting leather titleholders will be on hand to make it a success! Immediately following that event another fundraiser will be held at the Metro for the GSL and Coming Home from 1900-2200.

Sunday, of course, is the parade! Get out there and participate or cheer those who do onward! Big party at Dreamland afterward, of course, and all around the town, including the Trocadero, lots of partying and celebrating!

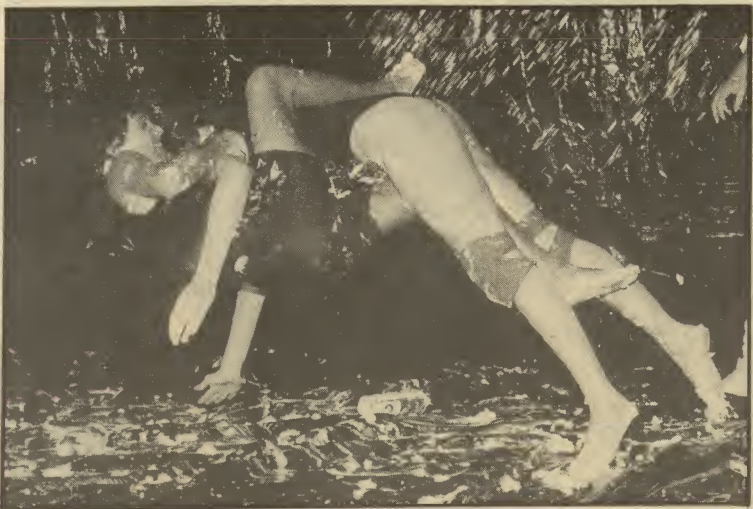
★ ★ ★

Word reached me last week that Robert Dunn, long a controversial figure in the leather communities of various cities, passed away of AIDS Tuesday evening in Los Angeles. Robert was quite a big gun in the leather, S&M area of this and other cities. He joined up with others who used to put on lavish leather S&M dance parties at the old Music Hall on Larkin. I received no definite word on memorial services either here or somewhere else at my deadline.

Is the Secretary of the Air Force, Edward Aldridge, one of (Continued on next page)



Dick Collier, owner of the Trocadero Transfer, in male attire at the Closet Ball (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



Wrestling and whipped cream mixed at the Baybrick last week when Blush Productions whipped up the crowd (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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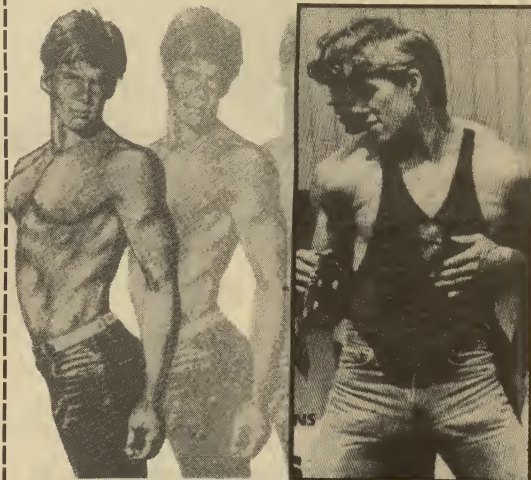
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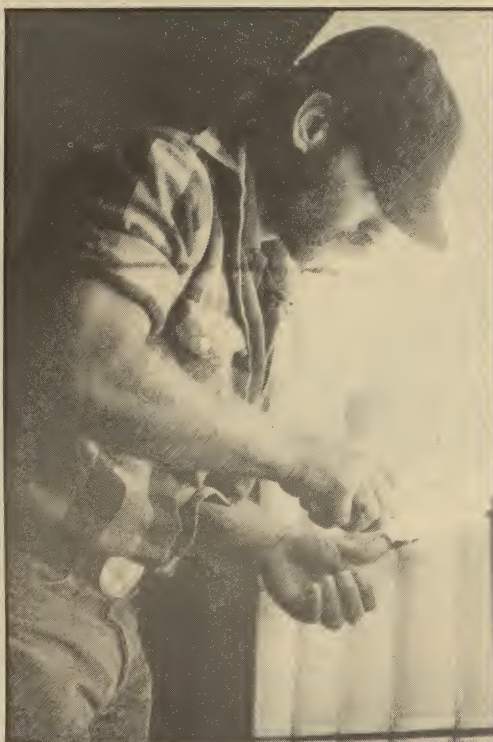
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Windows out of the old Falstaff Brewery will give the new Stud a piece of history.
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

us! In a June 4 press release, it was stated that the drop in rate of enlistments in the Air Force has caused the USAF to offer a new enticement: Leather Flight Jack-ets! Based on AF pricing (\$200) they used to be "regulation" wearing gear for pilots and crew men. Is a four-year enlistment for a \$200 flight jacket worth it? Hmmm!

DISH IS AS DISH DOES

Supervisor John Molinari showed up at the SF-Eagle Sunday afternoon, ostensibly to present a certificate of merit to the

Godfather Service Fund, but when the crowd learned his wife Louise was out in the car, the chant started low, and when it reached close to 1,000 decibels, La Louise appeared to help her astounded hubby auction off a neon light sculpture. They were dressed to the nines enroute to another function, but I'm sure that 10-minute stop garnered some 200 votes! Incidentally, the total "take" that afternoon was close to \$4,500 for the Godfather Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund with loads of thanks to everyone involved. Phoebe Planters, you were stunning!

Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch, after a 31-hour flight from Hamburg, graciously pulled out the winning 50/50 raffle ticket (\$149) with Pete Pettine and the Oakland dude who won it donated the entire sum back! I wish Nez Pas had been there!

Don't forget the Physique '87 Bodybuilding Championships Sat. night, 27 June. The prelims will be at Mission High at 1000 hours. Evening finals at 1900 hours will cost you \$12 for orchestra seats or \$10 for balcony seats. George Birimisa expects a good big crowd for this one. It'll include a Masters Division (age 40 and up) so if you're interested

Real Closet Ball, 1987 Winners

David Jones is the winner of Closet Ball, 1987. His creator is Danny Espinosa and his sponsor is Super Star Video. With creator Tatiana, the Kokpit's Andy Anderson was voted first runner-up.

Second runner-up was Clarence Sierra, created by Johnny Lim and sponsored by Nick Sands. Dick Collier, Jr. with creator Steven Price, from Trocadero Transfer, was third runner-up. Fourth runner-up was Wally Talbot. The entrant from Sutter's Mill was created by Nicole.

Robert Michael Productions, the producers of the event, said Monday that there was a mistake made in the processing of the ballots. An audit was made of all the judge's ballots and a new set of winners was named.

Those announced at the Closet Ball, 1987 presentation last Saturday evening have been named honorary Closet Ball winners. The honorary Miss Closet Ball, 1987 is Andy Anderson. Honorary first runner-up is Bruce Barber. Honorary second runner-up is Doug Lamb. Third honorary runner-up is Jeff Hocker. Fourth honorary runner-up is Wally Talbot.

in competing, call George at 431-6254.

The Brown Bag benefit netted some \$2,600 and Leather Daddy's Boy James Buhler and Jerry Pepper of the GSL are rightly proud.

Brown Bag Day '88 is already scheduled, but it will only be in one bar next year. The beneficiaries this year are the GSL and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

By the way, what happened at the Closet Ball? The losers announced as winners and the winners announced two days later? Get a grip!

Hey, since I'm doing the last part of this by candlelight, I'll close for now. Hope to see you all around the campus this weekend — have fun at the parade and Bill Fink, beware of pigeons at banquets!

Happy 22nd birthday to Leather Daddy's Boy James Buhler this Sunday, 28 June.

Promethius

Promethius, a nonprofit men's social/support organization and network, welcomes individuals to explore fellowship. While the group would like to bring in persons of many backgrounds, it especially seeks persons knowledgeable in stress reduction, meditation, self-image development, and human potential.

Promethius began in January, 1987. The organization's purpose is to provide a social/fellowship alternative for masculine-oriented men with traditional democratic, moral, and social standards. For the group, male-to-male interaction is personal, not a lifestyle or dogma. It is not homophobic, but recognizes the privacy, personalization, place of human sexual nature and proper appropriate identities of maleness, which transcend sexual identification. It wishes to promote rigorous mental and physical health, safe social practices, intimacy, and service to San Francisco. Promethius encourages fellowship and same-sex relationships within a monogamous and safe, healthy framework.

In addition to its ongoing social functions, Promethius also seeks to develop a training: a path or spiritual road to provide a growing association with new directions toward healthier, happier, more intimately successful lives. Persons interested in joining a growing social network of open, honest, dedicated, unaffected men and/or fostering male human potential can call 648-1860 or write P.O. 316, 1070 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



Jerry Pepper (l.) and James Buhler helped raise \$2,600 at the Brown Bag benefit June 14
(Photo: Marcus)

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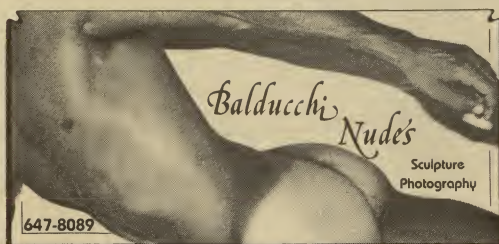
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Life of the Party is at the Victoria Theatre
June 26 and 27 (Photo: S. Cohen)

FRIDAY 26

- **9th Annual Gay Musical Celebration:** music, First Congregational Church, Post and Mason, S.F., 8 PM, \$6 and \$12 in advance, \$8 and \$14 at the door. The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco presents the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus, the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorus, the S.F. Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps, and the Vocal Minority. Tickets at Headlines, Suter's Mill, and Big Mama's. Call 861-4877 for more information.
- **Mr. Drummer Contest:** 7th annual finals, Club DV8, 540 Howard St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Nine regional Mr. Drummer winners vie for the national title, plus appearances by several Drummer and Zeus models. Mr. Drummers and Intl. Mr. Leathers, and the current Intl. Mr. Leather and Intl. Ms. Leather, who will contribute to the "Shirt Off Their Backs" auction. Tickets at Mr. S Leathers, All American Boy, Headlines, and the Drummer offices. Call 864-3456 for more information.
- **Life of the Party:** stage performance, Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$14. A full-length play from the creators of *The AIDS Show* returns to celebrate gay pride week. Call 861-6079 for tickets.
- **Pulp and Circumstance:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9-\$12. A musical send-up of the lesbian pulp novels of the 1950s by Adele Prandini and Sue Zemel with music by Jan Cole and choreography by Anne Bluthenthal. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **S.F. Intl. Lesbian and Gay Film Festival:** 1919 at 6 PM, \$5, *Drama In Blind* and *Der Ohrenwurm* at 8 PM, \$5, *Vera* at 10 PM, \$5, all at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F. AIDS: *History and Analysis* at 5 PM, \$3, *Defining Space* at 7 PM, \$5, and *Camping and Fishing* at 9 PM, \$5, all at Video Free America, 442 Shotwell St., S.F.
- **Beach Blanket Babylon Party:** sponsored by the Golden Gate Business Association, Club Fugazi, 678 Green St., S.F., 10:30 PM, \$25 and \$35. Proceeds will go towards the GGBA's Shanti Residence Project. Call 956-8677 for tickets.
- **Marge Gomez and Linda Hill:** comedy cabaret, Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8:15 PM, \$7. With Scott Singer of the S.F. Synthesizer Ensemble.
- **Dancing Cheek to Cheek:** gay pride evening, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., doors open 7:30 PM, dance class with Cynthia Glinka 8-9 PM, live sets begin 9 PM, \$10, dance class \$3. \$3 discount with ticket stub or program from Gay Musical Celebration. Call 621-5619 for more information.
- **Theresa Holcomb and Laurie Bushman:** comedy cabaret, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8:10 PM, free.
- **The Washington Sisters:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$7 sliding scale. Melanie Monsur at the piano.
- **Lianna:** film, San Jose State Morris Dailey Auditorium, 8 PM, \$5. Part of the First Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. A benefit for the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

THIS

- **Sisterspirit Coffeehouse:** casino night, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 8 PM, \$1-\$3.
- **KatiBelle Collins:** music, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, free. With Lauren Mayer on the piano.
- **S.F. Eagle and Superstar Video Beaches:** benefit beer bust, S.F. Eagle, 398 12th St., S.F., 8:30-11:30 PM, \$6.
- **Gay Italian Americans:** Italian speaking group, 8 PM, free. Call 465-3840 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **HIV Antibody Positive and Worried Well in the East Bay:** workshop, 7:10 PM. Sponsored by the Pacific Center. Call 548-8283 for more information.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** exemplification of the phallic mysteries, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 8:10:30 PM. Call 552-7339 for more information.

SATURDAY 27

- **Physique '87:** first-ever national gay bodybuilding championships, Mission High School, 18th and Church, S.F., preliminary judging at 10 AM, finals at 7 PM, \$5 for prelims only, \$12 orchestra and \$10 balcony for finals. Sponsored by the S.F. Band Foundation. Tickets at the City Athletic Club, Women's Training Center, and BASS.
- **Puttin' On The Ritz:** dance for women in celebration of gay pride week sponsored by Bay Area Career Women, Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 8:30 PM-2 AM, \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Robin Tyler in a special appearance. Tickets at BASS or by calling 495-5393; limited tickets at the door.
- **S.F. Intl. Gay and Lesbian Film Festival:** *Firewords and Masturbation*, *Five Women* at noon, \$3. Festival Shorts (*Cupid's True Love*, *Keeping The Faith*, *The Mark of Lilith*, and *Living With AIDS*) at 2 PM, \$3. Three Films by Mark Huestis (*Chuck Solomon: Coming of Age*, *Whatever Happened to Susan Jane?* and *Unity*) at 4 PM, \$5. *Novembermoon* and *Time Is Money* at 7 PM, \$5, and *Law of Desire* at 9:30 PM, \$5, all at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F. *Vantage Points* at 11 AM, \$3. *Assertions* at 2 PM, \$3. *AIDS: The Real and Unreal* at 4:40 PM, \$3. *The Call to Action* at 7 PM, \$5, and *Lesbian TV Party (Seventeen Rooms, Off Our Chests, The Minders, Sick, Frankly, Shirely, and Two in Twenty)* at 9 PM, \$5, all at Video Free America, 442 Shotwell St., S.F.
- **Life Of The Party:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Pulp and Circumstance:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Artists for Community Life:** literary reading to benefit art classes for people with AIDS, New Langston Arts, 1246 Folsom St., S.F., 2:30 PM, \$5. With Harold Norse, James Broughton, Armistead Maupin, Dodie Bellamy, Kevin Kilian, and Neeli Cherkovski. Call 626-5416 or 861-4187 for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** drop-in social, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 4-6 PM. With the National Association for Lesbian and Gay Gerontology.
- **Girth and Mirth Club of S.F.:** founder's day party, 3744 16th St., No. 3, S.F., 8 PM.
- **Show Your Pride:** lesbian/gay pride picnic, noon to sunset, Upper Jackrabbit picnic area, Spring Lake, off Hwy 12 in Sonoma Co. Bring lunch; grills available.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Lake Merritt run. Meet at the corner of 14th St. and Oak St. near the Cameron Stanford House, Oakland, at 9:30 AM. Flat 3-mile loop. Call 526-7592 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **S.F. Wrestling Club:** open house/potluck party, 11 AM-3 PM. Call 824-7915 or 538-8490 for more information.
- **Beach Bake Sale:** to benefit the gay softball World Series, sponsored by the Superstar Video Beaches gay softball team, sunrise to sunset, 18th and Castro, S.F.
- **Women's Self-Defense:** one-day class, offered by the UCSF police department. Call 824-9474 for more information.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** phallic fellowship with the Uncut Club, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 7:30 PM-1 AM, \$5. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SUNDAY 28

- **S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration:** ok folks, this is the big one. Like always, it begins at 11 AM at Spear and Market sts. and ends up at Civic Center Plaza. Unlike always, there will be two stages, one for entertainers, and of course all the usual booths and fun. Call 647-3733 for more information.

WEEK

• **Dreamland '87:** post-parade dance party, 3rd and Harrison, S.F., 3 PM until, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. With DJ Robbie Leslie of the Saint in New York, plus video, lights, and lasers. No-host bar, door prize drawings. A portion of the proceeds will go to AIDS Walk San Francisco and the Godfather Service Fund. Tickets at All American Boy, G.W. Finley, Headlines, and New York Man.

• **Solid As A Rock:** post-parade dance party, I-Beam, 1748 Haight St., S.F., 4 PM-2 AM, \$5. With Sylvester.

• **S.F. Intl. Lesbian and Gay Film Festival:** *Gertrude Stein and a Companion* at 5:30 PM, \$5, *Hail the New Puritan* at 7:30 PM, \$5, and *Crimes Against Nature* at 9:30 PM, \$5, all at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F.

• **Post Parade Reception For S/M Women:** sponsored by the Outcasts, 8-10 PM. Call 558-9531 for more information.

• **Feeling the Freedom!** post-parade dance party, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 2 PM, \$5. With DJs Patty Pardue and Page Model.

• **Code Blue 2:** post-parade dance party, Showplace Square, 16th and DeHaro, S.F. Call 979-5557 for more information.

• **Rainbow Celebration:** gay pride party, Atlantis Resort, Guerneville. Call (707) 869-0671 for more information.

• **Braslian Beat:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$5. Brazilian music with Chalo Eduardo.

• **Scott Johnston:** music, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.

• **Pulp and Circumstance:** stage performance, \$9-\$10 (see Friday listing for details).

• **S.F. Jacks:** post-parade penis paradise, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 4-7 PM, \$7.

• **Parade-Site Street Mass:** 4th Annual Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Eucharist, corner of Spear and Folsom, 10 AM. Sponsored by Integrity/San Francisco Bay Area. Call 431-5859 for more information.

• **MCC San Francisco:** pre-parade worship and communion service, 10:30 AM. Childcare and signing provided. Call 863-4434 for more information.

• **Bay Area Metropolitan Community Churches:** annual joint gay day worship service, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., S.F., 7 PM. The Rev. Jane Spahr of the Ministry of Light will preach.

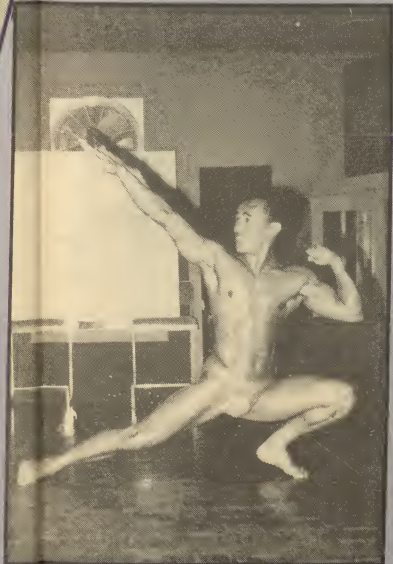
• **Radiant Light Ministries:** Sunday celebration of love and life, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 10 AM. Call 861-1667 for more information.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** post-parade open house, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 2-11 PM, \$5. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

MONDAY 29

• **Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club:** mayoral candidates forum, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 8 PM. Jack Molinari, Art Agnos, Roger Boas, Louise Renne, Cesar Ascarunz, and others will speak. Bruce Pettit will moderate.

• **Roberto Bedoya, Karen Brodine, Kenny Fries, and Merle Woo:** an evening of poetry, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$3-\$5 sliding scale.



Physique '87 comes to Mission High School June 27 (Photo: S. Savage)



Sylvester will be Solid as a Rock at the I-Beam after the parade (Photo: Rink)

• **The Right-On Politically Correct Night of Fun:** comedy, Other Cafe, 100 Carl St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4. Marga Gomez breaks the comedy barrier.

• **Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center:** semi-annual membership meeting, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7:30 PM. Nomination and election of board members.

• **Leathermen s/SM Support Group:** meeting, Room 21, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 931-6160 for more information.

TUESDAY 30

• **Gwen Avery:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM, free.

• **BurLE2k:** erotica for women by Blush Productions, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM. Advance tickets and reserved seating available at the Baybrick or at Blush Productions, 526 Castro St. Call 861-4723 for more information.

• **Lesbians Choosing Children:** panel presentation, Merritt Hospital/Cafeteria Annex, 34th and Webster, Oakland, 7-9 PM, \$1-\$5 sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds. The panel will explore the issues of considering parenthood: co-parenting and single parenting, and choosing not to parent. Call 641-0220 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 1

• **Comedy Plus:** open stage, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$2. With MC Marga Gomez plus special guests.

• **Nika:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM, free.

• **Pulp and Circumstance:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **San Francisco Hiking Club:** general club meeting, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 18th and Collingwood, S.F., 7:30 PM. Slides of last fall's trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park.

• **Wednesday Matinee:** sponsored by Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and North of Market Senior Services, 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4 PM. Movies, games, and refreshments. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• **Women's Writer's Workshop:** for older lesbians (60+) and their friends, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 6-8 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call 626-7000 for more information.

THURSDAY 2

• **Comedy Annex:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8-10 PM, free. Linda Hill with Barry Brady and Rick Mills.

• **This Month on the River Party:** benefit for Face to Face, the Sonoma Co. AIDS Network, Atlantis Resort, Hwy 116, Guerneville, 8 PM, \$5. Door prizes.

• **Pulp and Circumstance:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Living Sober '87:** conference, Civic Center Auditorium, 99 Grove St., S.F., noon, \$20. Continues through July 5. Call 851-3491 or 431-6287 for more information.

• **San Francisco FrontRunners:** meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 6:30 PM. No-host dinner follows, beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** phallic ritual, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 2-4 PM. Call 552-7339 for more information.

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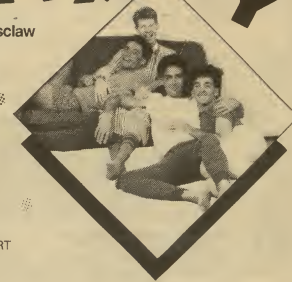
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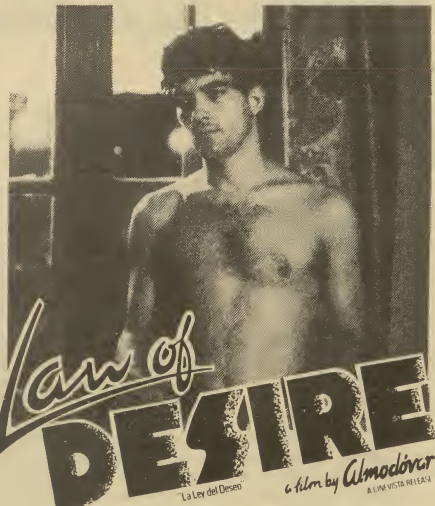
Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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"Joyously sleazy...Almodóvar is the happiest,
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Enrique Fernandez, VILLAGE VOICE



Law of DESIRE
La Ley del Deseo
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CLOSING NIGHT FILM

San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
Saturday, June 27th, 9:30pm, Castro Theatre
advance tickets available at the Festival Ticket Outlet
2075 Market St. at 14th, 431-9227.
starts Friday, July 3rd at the
AMC Kabuki 8 Cinemas

Riding the Rainbow Ridge

Sex As a Necessary Ingredient of the Healing Process

by Mark I. Chester

We are a community in the process of transition and change, transformation and healing. In this process, some have turned their back on sex, viewing it as the cause of our problems. Others, like New York artist Michael Goodwin, perceive sex as a necessary ingredient of the healing process, and possibly the most important element.

Goodwin's latest project has been the development, production, and filming of two videotapes, *The Goodjac Chronicles* and *Goodjac Too!* They are exciting, unusual, creatively sexy chapters in his obsessive study of masturbation as sex and healing in the 1980s.

At 49, the road to self-actualization and healing has been long and rough for Goodwin. He freely admits that, "I spent about 20 years of my life floating around in alcohol." He "pickled" himself over his looks, his lack of success, and his gayness. Goodwin kicked alcohol finally because "I was so sick and tired of living *Gone With The Wind* three times a day." After a successful stint at a straight job in L.A., he moved to New York to become himself and an artist.

Goodwin quickly found himself at home with the New York Jacks, documenting their weekly meetings in words and drawings with one hand while he jacked off with the other. His volatile surreal drawings capture the swirling thrust of emotional and psychological energies between people. He comments, "Video was just a natural progression to go towards from the drawings, because the drawings were much too moving. They wouldn't stay on the page."



Michael Goodwin performs

(Photo: Mark I. Chester)

Not only did Goodwin want to document himself drawing the New York Jacks, he wanted to capture the special kind of shared energy, camaraderie, and display of loving friendship that comes from jacking off with 100 men week after week. "The powerful feelings that I got from the club and the emotional closeness really hadn't been put down on videotape the way it could be," Goodwin said.

The videotapes that have resulted are not just sex tapes to be used for sexual stimulation, although they are particularly good for just that purpose. Goodwin has also created a kind of sexual-social documentary record of one group of New York City gay men. His erotic portrait clear-

ly indicates that these men are survivors and that there is life, growth, turn-on, and sex, even during the health crisis. "It is a really strong statement about how much unity and camaraderie and pride we still have," Goodwin said.

While it is possible to see influences in both subject and technical style from sex filmmakers like Joe Gage and Christopher Rage, Goodwin's videos have a special flavor all their own. His use of nonprofessionals gives the tapes a friendly, gay-boy-next-door quality which is emphasized by his use of men with average bodies and dicks, together with those who would meet commercial porn standards. Goodwin is proud of the fact that "they're

real people having real sex, which happens to be safe sex."

Collected together like short stories in a book connected by a common theme, Goodwin clearly shows that there is a creative, imaginative side to masturbation through the exploration of fantasy, costumes, environments, and fetishes. His unusual use in music ("Who's to say an ass can't be noble or that leather can't be high and refined?" he queries) is often startling and challenging, often creating completely new perceptions and responses.

Goodwin videos dripping, coming dicks throughout his work, so that the technical force of the work is not determined by an ever escalating crescendo that leads to orgasm at the end of a

scene. This creates the impression of a world filled with dicks that are constantly dripping, spilling, and spurring come. Goodwin smiles, "If you get involved in the tape, it becomes hypnotic. I have designed it to take you into a tunnel like Alice through the looking glass."

Don't tell Goodwin that this is just sex. "People are soul searching. People are looking for the lost chord. Let's give masturbation back its hallowed name. Masturbation should go on for hours. Masturbation should be something that you do in the same way that some people light candles and kneel in church." Priapian images flash through my head; archetypally the sexual, spiritual, and religious are inseparable.

Goodwin concurs. "I ride the rainbow ridge. That is when you jack up to that one stroke away from climax. The longer you stay up there, the more you're going to know about yourself." Later Goodwin takes it further. "When you get worked up into that tantric state, it releases your psyche and it's almost like seeing death, seeing God, or seeing that clear white screen. That wipes out all problems, all memories, and leaves just clear open space. You become something a little beyond what you've been. You step into another psychic dimension."

And what about the future? Goodwin has plans.

"I want to do five more videos of the same ilk. I've got a lot more things to say about masturbation. I feel a great urgency to get as much of this out, to make a statement, to establish myself as a gay artist, because I feel like I'm way

(Continued on page 71)

Oscar Would Be Proud

Or, Mad Dog the Tattooing Shaman

by Mark I. Chester

"One should either be a work of art or wear a work of art." It is the rantings of a mad queen, but it makes me love Oscar Wilde all over again. And so on Mother's Day, in celebration of 10 years of exploration, struggle, devastation, rebirth, and growth, I had magical marks indelibly etched into my skin. Black ink needle-punctured through skin in a personal ritual and spiritual declaration of life energy. Some might call it tattooing.

Over the last ten years, tattooing has acted as a channel to focus, clarify, and pinpoint momentous changes that were occurring in my life, even before I was consciously aware of them. Premonitions out of insane, crazy-quilt dreams. Compelling undercurrents that swept me along in their obsessive desire. Changing, altering, creating new pathways towards self-actualization and understanding.

The act of having your body

marked for life is a violent one. But don't get me wrong. Violence need not mean damage. It also means passion—extreme and intense feelings and emotions. There is a violence to the breaking of the integrity of the skin. To the claim to ownership over one's body. To recreate one's self in one's own image, with the signals, symbols, and markings that declare oneself to the world at large.

As gay men and lesbians, we have already broken through a major social taboo. The marking of the skin is just another step along the pathway. For such a passionate proclamation, I have chosen gay men, my tribesmen and clansmen, to mark me. In the past I have had to travel to Los Angeles to find someone who understood. But on Mother's Day, I was marked by San Franciscan Robert Roberts.

At 40, Roberts is an artist, calligrapher, researcher into the dark niches of human behavior,



Robert Roberts, aka Mad Dog, poses between two examples of his wearable art

(Photo: Mark I. Chester)

musician, and multi-dimensional madman on several planes of reality.

"I was born and grew up in the American Southwest in a little ranching family that had been there so long that everybody was inbred. It was time to get out," Roberts said. Behind the crazy grin of the medieval fool, there is also the fool's secret worldly knowledge. One could not exist without the other.

Roberts did get out, and his journey since has led to studies in music, a Master's degree in composition for piano, a shift to the harpsichord, and a yearning towards self-discovery that has only now begun to flower new hybrids as yet unfolding. He notes, "I wandered down this way, walked into the Ambush, and never really walked out." In five years at the Ambush, Roberts made leather goods, managed

the leather shop, got laid off during scarce times, rekindled his interest in drawing with successful shows at the Ambush, and started his own wholesale/retail operation selling leather, braided and rubber goods.

Roberts also continued his own explorations with his own body—getting his nipples pierced, and getting his own tattoos.

"This tattoo I've gotten, two

(Continued on page 71)

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(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Celebrate Gay Pride

Welcome to gay pride week in San Francisco. During this week San Franciscans and visitors from abroad will celebrate the victories and progress that we, as a gay and lesbian community, have achieved.

We will also be keenly aware of the setbacks and stalemates that have been encountered. We will pause during our celebration activities to remember the gallant souls who fought for their lives against the AIDS epidemic. We will reaffirm our commitment to continued pressure on our nation's government for more funds for research and medical care for people with AIDS and ARC. We will continue the struggle for equality under the law and, where the law is silent, demand change so that no human being is denied their basic freedoms, no matter who they may be.

I have no doubt that the parade and celebration will be as successful as in years past. Some of its luminaries will have changed as the political climate has changed.

When the parades first began they were a celebration of one's "gayness." Then they took on an arrogant tone, demanding rights of equality for lesbians and gay men. At the same time, the gays and lesbians were battling for control of the parade committees.

The movers and shakers of that time walked away disgruntled that the parades were becoming more political and less of a celebration. Like evolution, the parades and celebrations have slowly changed. In my opinion, they



Closet Ball '87 contestants and their creators

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

are moving back in the direction of a celebration, giving politics a back seat. That's the way it should be, but we will have to wait and see.

Enjoy yourself during the festivities, party safely, and remember: "Everything in moderation" makes for a happier time. Be proud of who you are and the fact that being gay is just another reason to be extra proud. When encountering fellow brothers and sisters, smile at them and wish them a happy gay day.

ANOTHER CELEBRATION

Following on the heels of gay

pride week will be the 211th birthday of our nation, the 4th of July. The nation is also celebrating the 200th year that our Constitution has been in effect. As nations go, we have just reached maturity, and despite some of its recent scandals, as a whole, the United States has continued to be resilient.

The Constitution and the nation both have changed and will continue to do so as long as we elect representatives who have open minds and are sensitive to all aspects of these United States. The protection of our open spaces from urbanization, equal-

ity against discrimination, the pursuit of happiness, and freedom of expression are but a few things these people must be vigilant about so that they will not be taken away.

There are those who would readily imprison and/or quarantine us for being gay. And there are others who would give us second-class citizenship because of our skin color or ethnic background. The list goes on.

That is why we, as voters, must be fully aware of what our elected officials and representatives are doing, and raise the alarm when injustices are detected. That is

why this nation has survived and will continue to survive as long as we do not become complacent.

Happy birthday, America. Long live our Constitution and let freedom ring!

UP AND COMING

Tony Trevizo and Deena Jones will host a benefit cabaret and auction for Coming Home Hospice and the Gay Softball World Series at the Metro on Thursday, June 25, starting at 8 p.m. There is no admission charge, hors d'oeuvres will be served, and the bar will donate a portion of its receipts to the charities. The evening's theme is "A Salute to Gay Pride."

For those of you who reveled in the disco era and danced until dawn at Dreamland, you'll have a chance to relive those "boogie days" Sunday after the parade. For one day only Dreamland '87 will return and, by popular demand, Robbie Leslie from the Saint in New York will be at the turntables. This premier dance club will be recreated to feature the atmosphere of fantasy, illusion, and high energy for non-stop dancing. Incorporating the newest in video, laser, lights, and special guests, this is sure to be the event of the year. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, and are available at All American Boy, C.W. Findley, Headlines, and New York Man. The festivities begin at 3 p.m. and go on until after hours. There will be a no-host bar and special drawings. A portion of the pro-

(Continued on next page)

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TATEA

A Tradition begins

Gay Pride Weekend
Sunday June 28, 1987
4 p.m. - 2 a.m.
D.J.: Mike Jorba
(The Pavillion, Fire Island)
(Trax N.Y.)

Independence Weekend
Sunday July 5, 1987
4 p.m. - 2 a.m.
D.J.: Henry Winslow
(The Pavillion, Fire Island)
(Tunnel N.Y.)

Admission: \$5.00
Proceeds to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund

The Warehouse
333 Eleventh Street (between Folsom & Harrison)
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621-5902

Sound: J.K.
Lighting: Art Direction: Gary Walker

Graphics: Kevin M. O'Quin
Typesetting: Parameters Type & Design



The real winner of Closet Ball '87

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Remy

(Continued from previous page)

ceeds will be donated to the AIDS Walk San Francisco and the Godfather Service Fund.

Don't forget to send in your run applications for the joint run hosted by the Barbary Coasters

and Warlocks motorcycle clubs. The run is scheduled for the weekend of July 24-26 at River Ranch in the Stanislaus Forest. Themed "2000 BC," this year's run promises to be spectacular. The weekend will feature a 24-hour bar, five meals, guest-night show, rider, buddy, and people events, costume and campsite

competition, and run show. The run fees are: \$75 if postmarked by July 1; \$80 if postmarked by July 15; or \$90 if postmarked or received by July 24. Run applications are available at the Men's Room, Transfer, S.F. Eagle, Watering Hole, or from any member of either club.

DO DA DE

I ventured to the Russian River during the June 13th weekend to see my friends Tracy and Rick, along with Jim Spotts. Although the weather was overcast and cold, we had a wonderful time. We visited the usual haunts: The Woods, Fife's, Molly Brown's, Rainbow Cattle Company, and the Bayou, and ran into a lot of friends I haven't seen in awhile. After the bars closed Saturday night we all headed for the Bayou for its anniversary party and prize drawings.

Girleen! The place was packed, and I saw lots of familiar faces and lots of hunting going on. I did notice one Queen of Bayou's strike it rich by carting off a cutie for a night of ecstasy. Thanks

Rick, Tracy, and Jim for a fun weekend!

While on a business trip recently I had the pleasure of meeting Vaughn Taylor, a former activist in San Francisco. Vaughn is doing quite well and sends her regards to her friends here.

Roger Coca, Monte Reddick, and Tommy Turner all send their best regards to all from Hawaii. They are all very happy in paradise, despite rumors to the contrary. I had a long telephone conversation with them recently and questioned them on the rumors I had heard. Not true, they love it there and have no intentions of returning.

That's it for now. Enjoy your gay pride weekend and take care. Aloha.



The Glide Ensemble entertained the throng at the Closet Ball (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 6/25

Salute to Gay Pride Week, The Metro, 7-10 p.m., Entertainment and auction, benefit Gay Softball League and Coming Home Hospice.

Bare Chest Contest, Mr. October, S.F. Eagle, 9 p.m., special guest Tom Karasch (Hamburg, W. Germany), Mr. International Leather '87.

FRIDAY 6/26

Gay Community Awards Voting, Amelia's, 8-10 p.m.

9th Annual Gay Musical Celebration, 1st Congregational Church, 8 p.m., tickets \$6 and \$12 in advance, \$8 and \$14 at the door.

Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 8:30-11:30 p.m., \$6 benefit S.F. Eagle and Beaches Softball Teams.

Mr. Drummer Contest, Club DV8, 9 p.m., \$15.

SATURDAY 6/27

Muff's Morning Movie (9 to 5), Men's Room, 10:30 a.m., host Mark.

Gay Pride Week Disco Party, Kimo's, 8 p.m. 'til, D.J. Jim Miller.

SUNDAY 6/27

Employee Beer Bust and Post-Parade Party, S.F. Eagle, 3 p.m. 'til, \$7.

Beer Bust, Transfer, 3-6 p.m., \$4, hot dogs and potato salad (\$2).

Gay Pride Week Post-Parade Disco Party, Kimo's, 3 p.m. 'til, D.J. Jim Miller.

After Parade Party, Dreamland (Harrison and Third), 3 p.m. 'til, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, benefit various AIDS charities.

Cabaret Night, Calleon, 8 p.m., \$5 cover, featuring Scott Johnson.

MONDAY 6/29

Maur's Marguerita Party, Trax, 12-7 p.m., \$1.25.

TUESDAY 6/30

Gay Community Awards Voting, Village, 8-10 p.m.

Compiled by Diedre

Sweet Lips

Don't Take Unnecessary Chances

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the out of towners who are visiting our fair city for lesbian/gay Freedom Day week and parade. Incidentally, Ginger's Too at 43 6th St. just a few doors off Market, the official parade route, will be open for cocktails at 8 a.m. Sunday with the Lips on the planks. They will serve a special gay freedom day brunch from 9 a.m. 'til 3 p.m., so come and join us.

Want to say bye to Clyde Johnson, aka Clydie Mae, who left us last week for up there, and thank everyone for the nice party at the Phone Booth in his honor last Wednesday. R.I.P., Clyde.

Elaine's—nightlife with style, at 222 Guerrero (14th Street) is now open, and Francine, it looks as if you have another hit on your hands.

Thank you Brian Todd of the Wateringhole for the thermos jug, and thanks to the staff of the Wateringhole for the great Tavern Guild meeting last Tuesday. Aren't you happy, Jim Bonko, that I have started attending meetings again? And don't forget the election meeting will be held Tuesday the 7th of July—don't miss it—at the White Swallow on Polk Street (with the new owners).

Why did Greta Grass think Eddie Chan was Willis' younger sister the other day? Incidentally, Greta Grass is in dire need of size 13 Extra Wide pumps for her outfits, so if you have any contact her at the Kokpit, right Grand Duchess?

Dick Cook of the Stallion tells me Mike's on Broadway in Seattle shows the video of Men Behind Bars every cocktail hour daily with Mr. Marcus as the Bag Lady, and it brings the house down with laughter all of the time. I knew you'd finally do something good for the community, Marcus. Make your plans now for the Portland Coronation which takes place on the 24th of October, and yes yours truly will be there because Mame and I are going to M.C. Dreamgirls that weekend at the very popular Embers/Avenue and you don't want to miss it. Also, the popular Steve Suss of the Embers/Avenue will visit me for five days in late September, and I'll be having a cocktail party for him at Ginger's Too so you all can renew old friendships.

Memo to John Hughs: How is the chocolate cake ass hole?

Exclusive: The annual Tavern Guild Picnic will be held on Sunday the 20th of September at Fife's in Russian River, so for buses and info contact Jim Bonko at 771-6133 and make your plans early as Fife's and the Tavern Guild promise a biggie.

Sven, hope your vacation in Sweden is great, and I am sure Freddie is making sure Bob doesn't get too lonely.

The Hob Nob on Geary has a great spaghetti feed on Tuesday nights put on by the one and only Casey. It does a great business and it is delicious, so drop in and join in the festivities.

Understand Rodney is back at the New Deja Vu with Rita.

Seems as if J.R. won the Tammy Faye Bakker look-a-like contest at Alvin's the other evening, and you did look hot...

Nice of Danny Woodland and his spoochie Ron to stop by for a

cocktail the other day. You look just great, Ron.

The Polk Gulch Saloon will have a cocktail hour from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m. on gay freedom day with beer, wine, and all well drinks only 85 cents, so don't forget to drop by and say hi to Dolly and Tony and the rest of the staff. Decorating again, Flame? Doesn't Jessie ever want to see the bar in its own state?

The Galleon has cabaret on Sunday evenings with showtime at 8 p.m. with a special guest for gay freedom day—Mr. Scott Johnston with soloists from Menage, so don't miss it.



Yes, Daddy Joe Roland is still packing them in at the popular Gangway on Larkin Street during the 6 'til 10 shift, so do drop by and have a drink with this popular and pleasant man — Hi Black Beauty.

Hope you all have a very pleasant gay freedom day, and do play it safe and don't take any unnecessary chances; know whom you take home.

Hope to see you all soon and don't forget to register to vote. Every vote is needed to get the best candidate in.

Was nice to have Michelle back in town for a couple of weeks, and you looked hot the other evening, not at all like the picture they printed of you—you peed too Franklin.

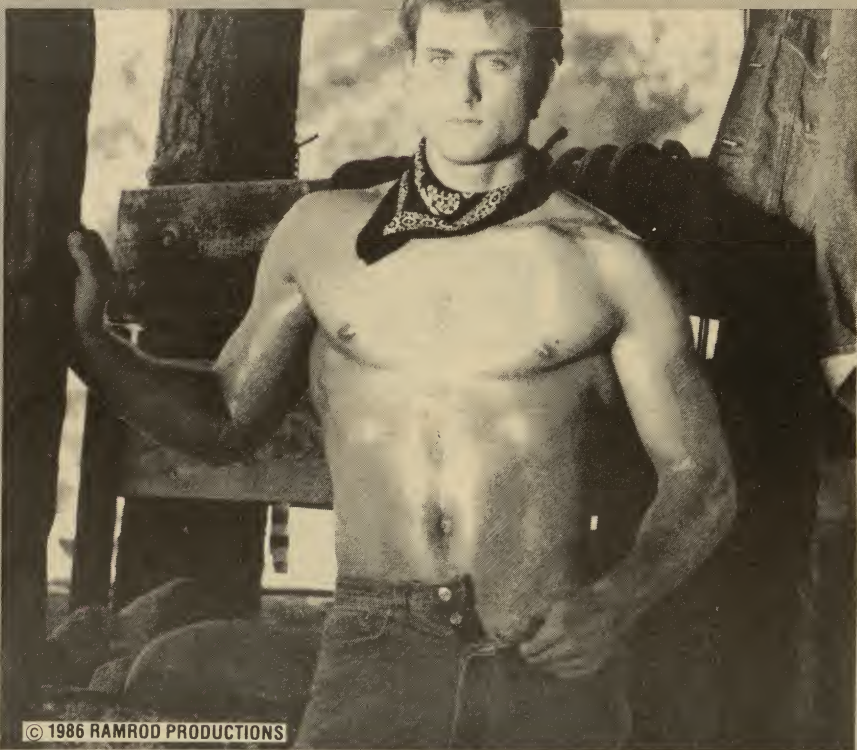
Don't forget to Spin the Wheel of Fortune at the Phone Booth—25th and So. Van Ness —Friday the 26th starting at 8 p.m. A great idea and benefit for Shanti.

DICK WALTERS



Art York should grow back his beard — you can see how great it was

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BOOKS

To Each His Own Isolation

Privatesby Gene Horowitz
St. Martin's Press, \$15.95

by Marv. Shaw

You've heard of the seven-year itch. How about the 27? That's how long William Howards and Victor Friedman have been together when the latter induces a trial separation. William hesitantly chooses a reunion with Sam Tolan, who has lived in San Francisco since his and William's army buddy/sister relationship at Fort Hood, Texas, during the Korean War. The non-sexual intensity of their mutual devotion, though dimmed by years of separation, has been kept alive by Sam's letters.

The flight west from New York and the first hours of the reunion with Sam catapult William back into his adolescence and young manhood, especially the months of gritty heat of basic training for armored warfare and the development of the gay friendship of the two. Then, as Horowitz puts it, "A shuttlecock of young memories floats back and forth across the net of time." The novel is not a game of badminton, however, and the author controls the shifts masterfully.

In a sense typical of the mid-century gay American male, Horowitz's William Howards is still decidedly individual: a

PRIVATES

A NOVEL BY
GENE HOROWITZAUTHOR OF
THE LADIES OF
LEWISTOWN
AND
THE VELVET
JUNGLE

literature-loving young Brooklyn Jew who must find his adult identity in a "Goyland," as he puts it, of American straights who are trigger-ready to condemn him as a kike or a fag. At Fort Hood he must fortify his privacy as a private.

From that point, the reader becomes more and more aware of Horowitz's rich development of his title, which in turn is his theme. Even more than most straights, gays must be privates, guarding their precious innermost selves even from each other. Naturally, under such psychological circumstances, ambiguities and ironies abound. William's private lust for Sam's privates is unsatisfied, despite their mutual reliance. The sadistic training sergeant, Heebler, furiously reveals his sexually conflicted private self when, in a subsequent cycle, he beats up on a new, unresponsive private who looks surprisingly like William.

This complex network of

guarded privacy, sporadic breaches, and the persistent need for love gives *Privates* its basic reality. The ongoing feel of actuality comes from the narrative, descriptive prose, especially that evoking the heat and dust of a Texas summer.

In one respect, though, *Privates* is underdeveloped. One would like to know more of the privacies of people like Aaron, a plump, aging queen who is a dear neighbor and cancer victim. Or the Murchisons, a wealthy, eccentric brother and sister who are close to Sam.

But the concentration must be on William — and his private problem of resolving two relationships, one with a mate doubtful of continuance and the other with an old friend who might want more now.

Horowitz has given us an original, valuable novel of multiple insights into gay nature and the relationships that are generated by it. Get into this one. ●

A Gay Look at the Viet Nam War

Anywhere, Anywhere
by Tim Barrus
Knights Press

by Frank Howell

Viet Nam was not scheduled to happen. World War II set the pattern for generations to follow. This was the way wars were supposed to be won. Clean and uncomplicated was the model. We were to enter a war free of doubt. Winning was taken for granted.

The little struggle in Southeast Asia redefined our energies. The goal was no longer winning, but to survive and exist in one piece.

The writing style used by those in Viet Nam is also carved from a stream-of-consciousness fugue that reminds readers of John Rechy's *City of Night* (1963). This can be rather irritating when a paragraph is frequently punctuated with hip phrasing such as, "Oh Mamma let's rock!" But once we adjust our minds to Tim Barrus' jarring concept of the American soldier and his hellish vision of reality, we begin to pay heed.

To comprehend this peculiar upheaval in American history we must view the action through the startled eyes of the average grunt. Death and killing, as Barrus tells us, was the real order of the day, not victory.

This small Far Eastern land was beyond the American imagination. We could only assume that Asians wanted to be saved. But those who live in other cultures have a different vision of salvation. The Vietnamese mind is accepting of fate. Americans are optimistic and always seek the silver lining.

The black market flourished there. Many Vietnamese military personnel, supported by our side, were actually peddling supplies to the Viet Cong. The pious nonsense never abated. Some of the patriotic rarely ceased to believe in the cause.

The GI witnessed the brutal side of war the folks at home could only speculate on as they sat comfortably in front of their TV sets.

Barrus weaves the gay view of war through the narrative. Gays were despised by their fellow Americans. Macho fighting men hated Vietnamese males because they frequently held hands with each other. A gripping horror confronts us: the gay who is caught by his fellow comrades in arms.

Anywhere also covers the emotional storm front at home. After the war, where one would expect emotional support, little is given from family and friends. Barrus introduces us to his fellow grunts, like Billy Boy, who is innocent and bewildered, and Jimmy Bo, a black male from Harlem who is not a stranger to death and dying.

Chris is the lover of the narrator, who is apparently nameless. The two drift through the aftermath of the war, vainly attempting to locate an anchor-point that will provide meaning and security. Chris has lost his legs in the war and depends on his lover for more than average strength.

Barrus skillfully weaves the focus between the foreign struggle and the domestic scene. We share the frustration and anguish of the Viet vets who are treated coldly by those who came back from the "good war" of the 1940s. The older generation openly mocked the younger vets.

Racism was rampant in this so-called battle for freedom. Massive numbers of blacks came to this exotic land to oppose the very people they were supposed to save. Mutual hate abounded on all fronts.

The journey we take with these men is grim but not forgotten. Unfortunately, the young today show little inclination to study the lessons of our past. In time the American people will simply repeat the same tired mistakes as they stumble toward an ill-defined redemption called patriotism.

Tim Barrus screams like a tortured prophet without honor, but those who heed him will do so only for a short time. Then the cycle begins anew. ●

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Tattoo

(Continued from page 64)

hearts interlocked with flowers and true love," he said. "Part of it is that I'm a very romantic person and when I was about five, I was gooey about the ranch hands that were around. They'd often had one of these period type tattoos. And that was because they were hot. It's part of the attraction to it. It's part of a certain kind of period of masculinity and what went with it."

Tattooing's social acceptability has suffered from its stereotypical connections to outlaw/low-life imagery of bikers and drunken sailors. But tattooing may be one of the oldest art forms known to man and has been found in one form or another in almost every non-Western culture. Tattooing has also had to fight for its very life, often being challenged and abolished through the efforts of Christian missionaries among native peoples around the world.

"It can be personal body decoration," Robert comments, "or as a form of recognition and membership in a trip or culture or group where the tattoo is an identifier or a mark of social distinction or class."

Despite Roberts' good-natured personality, "I take it very seriously—putting a mark on someone else—and in doing so, something is done to that person's persona and how they are viewed by other people henceforth. Particularly with magic/mystic elements and aboriginal design, I feel that this process is very closely related to the functions of a shaman. There is a magic moment. The design does not have to be aboriginal to have that magic moment. It can happen whatever that person's design is."

There are an infinite number of designs that can be used as the basis for tattooing. Roberts, from a very personal point of view, once he has tattooed a specific design on someone, although he may do other tattoos with similar themes, does not tattoo two people with exactly the same design. Besides his obvious artistic skills, Roberts sees his gift as a willingness to talk to people and share in a process of discovery with them, leading to the creation of a very special kind of rapport between the subject and tattooist.

"With the gay community," Roberts notes, "gay men are pleased to find a gay tattooist who doesn't have hang-ups and is

willing to talk about what they want and listen to what they have to say. Someone who is willing to tattoo erotic elements. Someone who is willing to take a look at the magic of erotica. Mystic magic, Erotic Magic. Where is the dividing line?"

One simply needs to look at Roberts' book of tattoo designs to see the wonderful range and versatility of his ideas. Some designs are familiar from the iconography of tattooing — snakes, dragons, carps — although Roberts takes it a bit further in both directions, Winnie the Pooh with a balloon in one direction balanced out by a mysterious winged griffin/demon with clawed feet, sweeping tail, and rock-hard erection. Or from black roses, a very traditional tattoo design, to a death-like skeleton creeping in a tattered robe. Roberts balances the beauty and gentleness of Japanese-style tattooing with the bold, harsh, graphic black shapes of Polynesian tattooing.

But Roberts is most interested in working with each individual to create something special and unique to them. He sees himself as a focal point, or prism, through which ideas and feelings are projected and illuminated.

"Sometimes it's not so clear to them," he said. "It's up to me to interpret and reflect what they are putting out. Life is mirrors, anyway."

We also talk safety. Roberts follows rigorous sterilizing techniques. His materials are autoclaved. He wears rubber gloves for his own protection. And for extra safety, new needles are always used on each new subject. When I asked him the standard question about whether tattooing hurts, he laughs, "Think of a few mosquitos on an acid trip." Seriously, he says that while some areas of the body are more painful to tattoo than others (areas with little flesh covering bone), the process is more annoying than painful. "At that time, the bodies natural endorphins take over," he points out. And then he smiles a very broad smile. Oh. Didn't I tell you? Roberts is also known as Mad Dog.

With a growing worldwide reputation, the subject of photographs and paintings, and a permanent ticket to a dimension whose name I don't even know, Roberts can be reached at 552-1297, for more information. I know Oscar would be proud. ●

Goodwin

(Continued from page 64)

behind. It's taken me a long time to get my act together. Now it's my time and I'm not going to waste any of it."

But masturbation videos are just the start for Goodwin. He believes video is the gay community's most important tool for building unity and providing communication among a people who are scattered throughout the United States. After his masturbation series, he would like to

video gay plays and stories. "It's another way of connecting us together," he says. Beyond that he is interested in live theater, art centers, and the preservation of our gay heritage.

Goodwin realizes that the quality of gay life in the future rests largely on our shoulders and can't be put off until tomorrow. "It's my turn to get seeds planted."

The Goodjac Chronicles and *Goodjac Too!* videos cost \$49.95 each and can be ordered from the artist: Michael Goodwin, POB 1597, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. ●

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—Germaine Greer, 1971

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Gay Comedy

(Continued from page 51)

Danny Williams recalls, "The Rose got lots of well-deserved publicity for being a club that supported the gay arts, but the Baybrick has been doing it longer than the Rose. The Baybrick has had gay men and women doing music and poetry and comedy and every type of performing possible ever since it has been there. I think the Baybrick is the unsung hero of our community."

Recently, the Baybrick has demonstrated a special affinity for comedy, and currently boasts cabaret shows on both Thursday and Friday nights. In addition, its Wednesday Night Open Stage, hosted and co-produced by Marga Gomez, typically draws such familiar comedians as Diane Amos (of the National Theatre of the Deranged), Susie Berger, Linda Moakes, Karen Ripley (of Over Our Heads), Sandy Van, Danny Williams, and many others, as well as an assortment of rising comics, including such notables as Maureen Brownsey and Ann Harvey. Of special note are two upcoming comedy benefits — on July 15 for The Blazing Redheads, a popular women's band whose studio was recently burglarized; and on July 29, for the Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights.

The Baybrick shares with the Rose a progressive ideology that most mainstream clubs appear to disdain. Says Williams, "The Baybrick hires good comics — comics who don't do racist or sexist material, who aren't homophobic." Gomez adds, "We real-



Marga Gomez

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

ly want to have all kinds of performers. A guy can go up and talk about his boyfriend or a guy can go up and talk about his girlfriend. As long as none of it is hateful. The audience has been getting more mixed, too. In the

end, it may be that everybody shares an audience. That may be a way to filter some of the consciousness of the gay community into the straight comedy scene. We'll see. The Baybrick is an experiment."

But local gay comedians are flourishing beyond the walls of the Baybrick — and far beyond the shores of the Bay Area. Tom Ammiano and Doug Holsclaw, known for their popular comedy revues *Hissy Fits* and *Two Queens in Search of a Motif*, are poised to unveil a new six-member comedy troupe, *Can't Keep A Straight Face*. Gomez and Linda Hill introduce their new comedy revue at Berkeley's Julia Morgan Theatre June 26.

Ammiano will spend most of the summer on the East Coast, at Provincetown's Pilgrim House and in Manhattan, where his one-man show, *Wrist*, reprises at the Duplex. Gomez performs in Provincetown as well this summer, at *Different Ducks*. And Danny Williams, having hosted San Jose's and Sacramento's gay pride celebrations, journeys this weekend to Los Angeles to MC the Christopher Street West Festival.

Balanchine

(Continued from page 50)

them perform it. However, much criticism is being leveled at NYCB itself for perceived changes in the Balanchine repertory, so it is conceivable that the whole notion of stylistic authenticity may one day be no more than moot, insupportable balletomanic small talk. People change; ballets change.

Requests to stage Balanchine's ballets have sharply increased in the last years, sometimes bringing with them some preferences the requesting companies might never have presented before Balanchine's death. *Theme and Variations*, which had been made expressly for American Ballet Theatre in 1947, was altered by Balanchine in a 1960 restaging for the New York City Ballet, while ABT continued to perform the original version. When former ABT dancer Dennis Nahat asked Balanchine's estate for permission to restage *Theme* for his San Jose/Cleveland Ballet, he proposed that another former ABT dancer, Michael Lland, be allowed to set the ballet. Outside ABT, Nahat's company alone dances the original choreography, while other restagings, such as those done on the Houston, Pacific Northwest, and San Francisco Ballets, were taught by New York City Ballet dancers in the revised version they had performed.

The Balanchine renaissance at the San Francisco Ballet actually began when Francia Russell and Kent Stowell took over the directorship of Pacific Northwest Ballet. Kent Stowell and former SFB co-director Michael Smuin, who had been friends since their boyhood days at the University of Utah, began their reassociation with an exchange of their own ballets; Stowell's *Swan Lake Act II* came to San Francisco, and Smuin's *Songs of Mahler* went to Seattle. At the same time, several Balanchine co-productions were planned, to be supervised by Francia Russell, who was by that time one of the most experienced Balanchine stagings of the middle generation.

Russell had assumed her role as a stager in 1963 when Balanchine sent her to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens to stage *Allegro Brillante*, which was also the first ballet she staged for SFB, in 1979. Since then she has staged nine Balanchine works here, some of which, like *Chaconne* and *Western Symphony*, were first taught to Pacific Northwest Ballet by Rosemary Dunleavy, a ballet mistress at the NYCB since the late '60s. Having learned the ballets as they were taught to PNB, Russell in turn taught them to SFB.

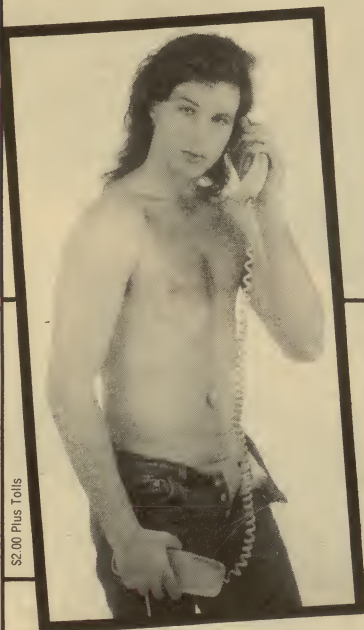
Probably only Barbara Horgan knows exactly how many peo-

ple there are who have staged Balanchine's works, but the number is much larger than most people, including the staggers themselves, imagine. There are those, like Una Kai, who set *Serenade* for the Atlanta Ballet, who stage one or two ballets but are not well known for it. Certain works are entrusted to only a few individuals, such as John Taras, who most often works on *Prodigal Son*. A core group of well-known staggers, including Rosemary Dunleavy, Sara Leland, Francia Russell, and Victoria Simon, are extremely knowledgeable, each having restaged a large number of works for various companies. The newest generation of staggers includes San Francisco Ballet's Artistic Director, Helgi Tomasson, and his assistant, Bonita Borne, both very recent alumni of the New York City Ballet.

Borne relies on instinct in rehearsing the ballets others have staged for SFB, though, as she admitted over coffee one day, she constantly phones her old friends at NYCB with questions about details. Borne scored a triumph in her restaging of Balanchine's *Rubies* last year, a project that proved her mettle as a stager in her own right. Though Borne had danced both corps roles and the pas de deux in *Rubies*, she spent two weeks in New York studying videotapes of it, listing every step. Ballerina Patricia McBride offered Borne a personal critique of the taped performance, suggesting further refinements, and Wilhelmina Frankfurt, one of Borne's closest friends from her NYCB days and a former soloist in *Rubies*, recalled all the corrections Balanchine had given her, and these were added to Borne's notes. Finally, Borne counted out the Stravinsky score with a NYCB company pianist, making still more notes. It then took her one week to teach the ballet to the dancers at SFB, where it was one of the highlights of the past season. *Rubies* is one of the works with which Balanchine's estate allows considerable production latitude. Companies restaging it may recostume it as they see fit, with the option of using a different title if they do. Pacific Northwest Ballet will present it during their 1988 season, using the title *Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra*.

Tomasson and Borne provide SFB with the strongest link to the Balanchine ballets since Lew Christensen's arrival in 1951. Both were active during Balanchine's final creative period; now they offer youth and experience in a most fortuitous combination. When I asked Borne if there were any ballets she would not attempt to stage, she quickly responded, "I'll attempt anything! If I don't know it, I'll just go to New York and learn it!" That's the spirit that will keep Balanchine's ballets alive and well and living in San Francisco.

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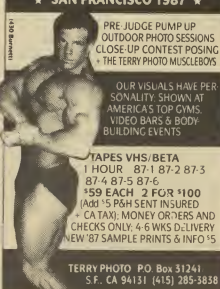
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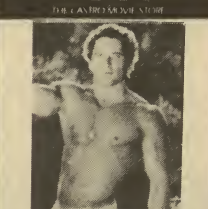
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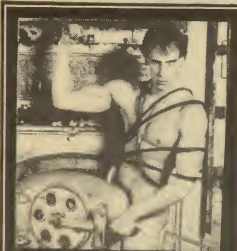
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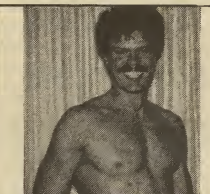
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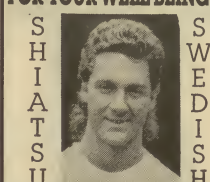
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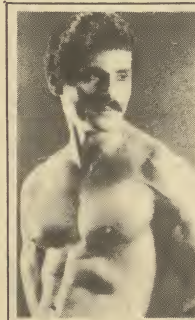
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5'9" + 9", 165 lbs., 43" c, 28" w
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Alan: 21, 5'6", 140 lbs,
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RICHARD OF SF 821-3457

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Physique '87

Gay Bodybuilders Getting Ready To Compete

by Charles Linebarger

The first annual National Gay Bodybuilding Competition is due to take place on Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m. The place where the bodybuilders will show their stuff is Mission High School at 18th and Dolores. Pre-judging will take place earlier in the day at 10 a.m.

George Birimisa, a playwright, actor and bodybuilder, is the male co-chair of the event. Birimisa talked about the inception of the contest at last year's Gay Games physique show.

"During the Gay Games II there was such a wonderful feeling at the physique show that I thought it would be silly to wait till 1990 (the date set for Gay Games III)."

While noting that San Francisco Arts and Athletics had produced the highly successful Gay Games physique show, Birimisa added, "but a lot of the people involved in that contest, including the chief judge, Ralph Countryman, Joe Tolby, who won a gold medal as a bodybuilder in Gay Games I, Betty



Bodybuilders grease up all in a line

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Doza, the owner of the Women's Training Center, and Ed Holland, the owner of the City Athletic Club, got together and decided to

do this. We finally hooked up with the San Francisco Band Foundation, which made it feasible."

According to Birimisa, the S.F. Band Foundation will financially underwrite the event.

The male co-chair said he expects this to be merely the first of what he hopes will be an annual bodybuilding contest for gay men and lesbians around the country—an event which will occur annually in San Francisco.

Birimisa said 50 competitors have signed on for the contest so far, and he expects the 1,700-seat auditorium at Mission High School to be filled for the evening show.

WOMEN

Kitty Tsui is the female co-chair of the contest.

"Women are as heavily involved in this affair as men," said

Birimisa. "This is a real gay/lesbian affair. It's not just for male bodybuilders because there are as many women bodybuilding contestants, if not more, and the audience will be at least 50% women."

Among the guest posers will be Zoltan, who won a gold medal at Gay Games I, Rosemary Connire, who won a gold medal at Gay Games II, and Kris Brooks, a well-known bodybuilder from Oakland, will be the featured poser.

Along with the guest posers at the evening event there will be a performance by the Flag Corps from the San Francisco Band Foundation.

Birimisa said the show was also not just for young men and women.

"I'm trying to show that an older man bodybuilding isn't just for young kids. The improvement I've made since I turned 60 has been phenomenal."

COMMUNITY THING

"This is a community thing," said Birimisa. "It's not a big, heavy competitive thing."

"You know I'm also an actor," Birimisa noted, who, as a playwright, wrote *Poagy Bait*, which was staged by Theatre Rhinoceros in 1983.

"When I was on stage at the Gay Games, the love I felt from the audience was like nothing I'd ever felt in the theater. So I felt it was a new calling. That's why I'm doing this."

Tickets for the evening show are \$12 for the orchestra and \$10 for the balcony. The pre-judging seats are all \$5. Birimisa points out that all tickets are tax deductible.



Bodybuilder Rosemary Connire

(Photo: Rink)

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BAY AREA REPORTER JUNE 25, 1987 PAGE 76

Kurt Burgess

The Man Who Keeps SFPD Fit

by Paul Trefzger

Would you believe there's a 26-year-old member of the gay community who tells who tells members of the San Francisco Police Department regularly to "lie down on the massage table on your back, keep your arms spread from your body and spread your legs and assume the position of submission"? It's Kurt Burgess, and those are his instructions to police officers prior to their being "hooked up" to the Bioelectrical Impedance Analyzer (BIA), a high-tech means of measuring the percentage of body fat.

He gives those instructions to volunteers from the yearly group of approximately 1,000 at the academy who have to meet departmental standards.

"When we're talking to a group of recruits, they're usually kind of happy," Burgess said. "They got their job, their training's being paid for, and the morale's really high. Then I tell them that we'll be doing body composition testing in the other room, and all they have to do, etc. Well, there's usually a great roar and much laughter from the crowd." I asked how they react individually. "Some are very shy and some are afraid to do the test because they have trouble believing that you can pass an electrical current through their body without feeling it." The method is explained to the group.

"We tell them," Burgess continued, "that it measures the resistance your body creates to two different frequencies of electric currents. The more fit, the less resistance there'll be. Lean tissue consists of 60% more water than fat tissue, which is a very poor conductor of electricity. They (audience) will say, 'Does this hurt?' and we tell them, 'No, it does not hurt, unless you're one of those guys who ticketed us during the last year. Then we turn the current up 'til your hair frizzles.' No, we might kid someone on the table, depending on how they come across. Actually, we reassure them that it's such an extremely low amperage that you're unaware of it. Then there



Kurt Burgess demonstrates his machine

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

are still some guys that are afraid." Then Kurt related (what a kidder) how they've set guys up by staging a scenario where a worried recruit is led into a room where a female tester is casually eating an apple while a recruit, who is in on the gag, is convulsing wildly on the table.

I asked Burgess how this all transpired. He told me he spent about six months bugging people.

"I found out that they were using an out-of-date insurance chart that gave the 'right weight' for a height," he said. "I knew that by making the men and women adhere to that standard was advocating unsafe weight loss. An officer faced the added stress of facing suspension if he/she didn't lose enough weight in so many weeks. I went to Bob Barry, president of the Police Officers Association, and said, one, you can't advocate unsafe weight loss, and two, you can't use an obsolete height and weight chart." He explained to me, as he did Barry, the difference in body types and frames, etc. that the chart doesn't take into consideration, but are very important.

"We felt that if we went to the POA first, we could then go to personnel. We also spoke to the PE staff. We called in expert physiologists and nutritionists. We told them the maximum number of pounds a person could lose per month for a safe weight-loss program and the importance of the wording of, and the consequences the officer would meet if he/she didn't comply. We made it more positive, and so it is viewed more positively."

Kurt's "we" includes his cousin Shelley Burgess, who is in charge of marketing, Kathy Russo, RDRN, Sue Tobachnik, physical therapist/exercise physiologist, Pamela Klein, physical therapist and conductor of "back schools," Rosemary Comire, one-on-one fitness trainer (1st place in bodybuilding in Gay Games II), Suzanne Clements Martin, movement specialist/fitness trainer/professional dancer, and Bryant Owens, chiropractor. Quite a lineup. He proceeded to elaborate on Comire.

"She was first in the Northern California NPC, lightweight division. I've had nothing but rave reviews from her clients. There's

an officer at the academy who is in charge of the weight training program for the recruits, and she has instructed him, especially about how to train women recruits." I asked Burgess to tell me a little about himself.

"I was born 26 years ago in Montana and raised there. I played basketball, did some cross-country running, karate, raced motorcycles, motorcross. I guess I was pretty butch. I skied since I was five. I was into physical fitness in school, then decided to become a music major, piano. Then, I moved to San Francisco and said, 'This is it!' I took a few lessons, but I didn't have the time or the money, and I saw this ad for a research assistant at the Western Human Nutrition Research Center. I had been a technician in the biology lab in college. Well, this Ph.D. I was working with, who wrote the body composition chart, suggested I start my own business. I started cold turkey. I went to a Fitness Festival in Sacramento. I made some money and came back here. My cousin, Shelley, joined me six months ago.

"We did a pilot nutritional/ex-

ercise study with six officers to find out whether or not they would indeed benefit. From that study, we arrived at a more lenient height/weight standard. And we operated on the assumption that all successful programs to accomplish those ends are voluntary. We got the results we expected. We impressed the department.

"We go in to the Academy every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday now, doing exercise and nutrition seminars and body composition profiles. There are about 2,000 officers and half of them attend yearly, so everyone qualifies every two years. It's mandatory except our program. They have to listen to us talk but not to participate in the practical part. However, only three out of a thousand refused to go along with our testing." Kurt related how these several stand out "like a diamond in a goat's ass. They stand there with their arms crossed, looking away," and added, "even some of them come around." I asked about the results.

"Body fat average by age groups differs, and an individual's test results are confidential. I was surprised to find out how concerned the officers were about confidentiality. Well, what we accomplish has proven to be a valuable asset to officers who have had difficulty in meeting the B-1 Standards. If they want, we'll come to bat for them and have, successfully. Rather than work with individuals, even though we're glad to do it, our goal is for them to drop their standards and to adopt ours.

"If all this sounds a bit dry, technical, how about this? There are seminars the officers can and do elect to attend, and by officers, I mean recruits, sergeants, inspectors, and lieutenants too. Here goes: 'Wine and Dine Without Crossing the Line,' 'Why, Why, Why Do I Eat, Eat, Eat?' 'Exorcising Your Flab,' 'Safe Sex and Intimacy,' 'Donning the Chef's Cap,' and my personal favorite, 'Shop, Shop, Shop 'Til You Drop.' These classes include teaching officers to prepare healthy meals and how to grocery shop, reading labels, etc." Think it's not necessary? Burgess told me, "I told one officer to pick out what he'd have for lunch. He picked out a white powdered sugar donut, M & Ms and a Diet Coke. The Diet Coke was 'health food.'"

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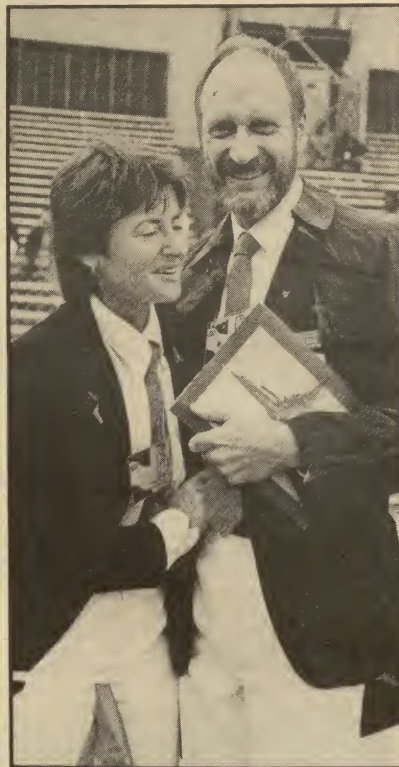
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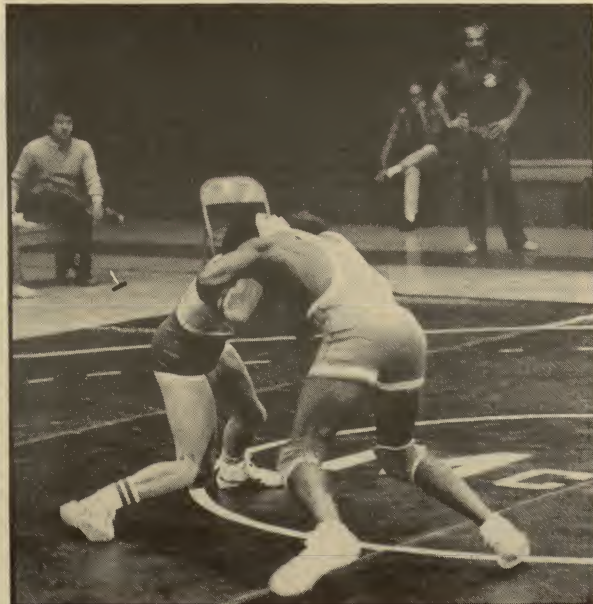


(Photo: R. Pruzan)

GAY GAMES II!



(Photo: Steve Savage)



(Photo: S. Savage)

SOFTBALL

Phone Booth Stuns Gingers; Cafe Men Shock Rawhide

by Tom Vindeed

For the first time in many weeks the Phone Booth Operators had most of the team at the game. It sure paid off because Barbara pitched the Operators to its first win of the season, over Ira Clark's Ginger's squad, 11-2.

Hayden Jackson's Cafe San Marcos Men surprised everyone but itself with a 10-6 win over the Rawhide II. The victory was the team's fifth straight (?), and improved its record 7-4, good enough for seventh place in the Golden Gate Division.

Superstar Video, which has been near the top of the Cable Car Division all season, gave the Metro a battle before falling 8-2. That's six in a row for the Metro.

A combined six-hitter by Becky and Francis helped the Village to a 6-1 win over the S.F. Eagle. That's the Village's seventh win in a row.

Speaking of consecutive, a few more streaks are still intact. The End-Up fought off the pesky Stallion 7-4 and then shut out the Cafe Women 22-0. That's 10 consecutive victories for the league leaders.

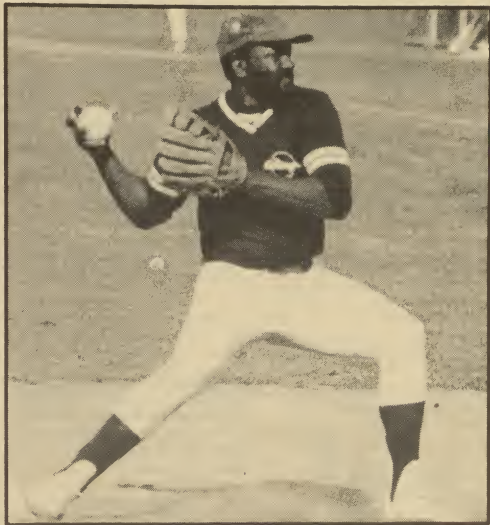
Bob Viereck's Pendulum shot down Amelia's 16-0 to record its tenth win since its opening-game loss to the End-Up.

El Rio's streak is just the opposite. The team lost its tenth in a row to the Kokpit, which prevailed by a 22-0 count.

Hunks scored its third win of the season, a feat nobody expected, by trimming the Bear 11-2.

Terry McCord's spunky Rainbow Roos gave the mighty Pilsner Penguins a run for its money before falling 4-1 in a well-played game. Nice to see Bob Smith back and looking chunky for once in his life.

Tonight, from 7 to 10 p.m., those two fabulous people, Tony Trevizo and Deena Jones, will



A member of the End-Up softball team wows the crowd with his throwing arm (Photo: James D. Dusch)

present a benefit for the Gay Softball World Series and the Coming Home Hospice Endowment Fund at the Metro, 16th Street and Market. You know when Tony and Deena do something, it will be done right. Half of the bar receipts will go towards the World Series and Coming Home funds, and that in itself is a nice gesture on the part of the Metro's owners. Stop by and share a little fun with us.

Friday night beginning at 8:30 p.m. there will be a beer bust at the S.F. Eagle to benefit the Superstar Video Beaches and Eagle softball teams. A \$6 donation gets you all the beer and fun you could possibly want. This would be a great way to start your gay pride weekend.

Sunday, after the parade, the End-Up will host a BBQ to benefit the team and the World Series. This popular bar will be packed as usual, and the bods should be

enough entertainment. No, Vanna. Not your body. The donation is only \$3 at the door. Terry, are you cooking ribs?

For the next two weeks the Gay Softball League will take its summer sabbatical due to gay pride week and July 4th. Play will resume July 12, one day prior to a certain writer's birthday.

STANDINGS

Cable Car Division

Rawhide	7-3
Superstar Video	6-4
Stallion	6-5
Rainbow Roos	4-7
S.F. Eagle	4-7
Ginger's	3-8
Cafe Women	3-8
Amelia's	3-8
The Bear	2-9
El Rio	0-10

Golden Gate Division

End-Up	10-0
Pendulum	10-1
Pilsner	8-1
Village	8-2
Kokpit	8-3
Metro	8-3
Cafe Men	7-4
Hunks	3-8
Phone Booth	1-10

GSL Calendar

JUNE

25 (Thu): Salute To Gay Pride, 7-10 at The Metro. Mini-auction and entertainment. Benefit for World Series and Coming Home Hospice.

27 (Sat): Beaches Bake Sale, 18th and Castro.

28 (Sun): The Parade. We are selling the beer in Civic Center Plaza to raise \$ for World Series. Volunteers needed.

JULY

5 (Sun): Independence Day Weekend. no games scheduled!

18 (Sat): Bowling Challenge fundraiser, with Tavern Guild. Details TBA.

25 (Sat): Switch Hitters Ball, California Club, 7.

Note: Please call 861-0114 for World Series Committee information.

BOWLING

Gettin' Down On The Lanes

by Richard McPherson

I'm sure you've all heard and read about the big International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) tournament held in New Orleans some weeks ago. Some 40+ of our men and women competed in team, doubles, and singles events along with 800 others from around the country. I heard the hospitality and accommodations were outstanding and that the entertainment was in the traditional lavish-gay New Orleans style.

None of our own scored big on the lanes but hey, that was only a few hours a day out of the 24-hour pace in which New Orleans operates. I heard from many (as they spoke with enthusiasm and bulging eyes) that there was hot weather, hot men, and hot times. In other words, most of the action happened off the lanes. You can bet I won't miss next year's event, scheduled for Washington, D.C.

I think Mal Garcia summed up the social intercourse best when he remarked: "Let's see, what happened that was exciting... more socializing than I'd ever seen before. For example, one morning I had breakfast with seven cities." He didn't offer to fill me in on the events of the previous evening.

This Saturday, June 27, is the Mini Scratch tournament at Park Bowl. If you haven't signed up by now you've probably missed the boat. The next event coming up in preparation for "the scratch" (S.F. Gay Scratch Invitational), our big national tournament in August, is "the challenge." This is a match-game event at Park Bowl between bowlers and softballers scheduled for July 18 at 2:30 p.m. Pledges are being taken now to benefit "the scratch," Softball World Series, and Project Open Hand (Ruth Brinker's marvelous program to feed household AIDS people). Please support and pledge if you can. Call Keith Ray at 474-3337.

Hunter Bauman shot the high overall series for both houses for the past two weeks with a 237, 180, 223 for a 640 at Japantown Bowl. The only other 600+ was shot by Russell Beck with a consistent 205, 219, and 191 (615). (I

believe Russ booked the highest overall average in the Community Leagues last year with an impressive 190.) Other games over 210 were: Kevin Stjern 219 (Tues.) and 213 (Wed.); Bob Luna 219; Dennis Hale 218; Chuck Boehm 211; and Dennis Moody 210. Three bowlers who made significant efforts over their averages were Charles Daniels, 132 ave., 203 game; Jim Manges, 144 ave., 200 game, and Jack Claypool, 121 ave., shot 164, 191 (497), which is 134 pins over his average!

Over at Park Bowl in the Tavern Guild Leagues, for the past two weeks Keith Ray was the big top with 221, 219, 192 (632) on Wed. and 231 (613) on Mon. Other 600s:

Joe Saunders	234, 210 (629)
Hugh Smith	236, 211 (618)
Richard McPherson	211, 235 (617)
Mal Garcia	235 (609)
J. Hettmansperger	203 (602)

High games over 220 were: Buddy Hunt 229, Greg Huliger 225, R. McPherson 227, Glenn Judd 223, Rick Ilari 222 (he's moving to KY June 30, good luck, Rick!), and Frank Cloutier 221. (Another Pilsner bartender—they've got some of the hottest bartenders over there!)

An up-and-coming bowler to watch is Lenny Broberg. He ended last year with a 144 ave. and already this year he's up in the 160s. Lenny is a lefty who is developing good form and a hot ball. In the Thursday league he shot a 218 and 201 back-to-back.

For the women, Robyn Trost, a welcome new bowler to the Park Bowl leagues, shot a 203 and 201 on two consecutive Thursdays. Get a load of that curve she throws with her full fingertip ball. Teammate Miyako Keen shot a 203, as did Elizabeth Yesowitch. Congratulations to Joyce Leslie, a 134 ave., on her first 200, a 202! I happened to witness John Parry pick up the nearly impossible 7-9 split on Wed. He made it look so easy.

Gay Freedom Day is here. Let's all get out on the streets this Sunday and show our pride — but please, leave your balls at home.

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 2 of 16 - as of 6/7/87)

1. Team 06	7	1
2. Cowboys and Indians	7	1
3. Carmas Guys Two	6	2
4. M D Squared	5	3
5. We Know!	4	4
6. Split Ends	4	4
7. Andy's Angels Plus	4	4
8. Natalie Deadwoods	3	5
9. Mixed Company	3	5
10. Mary's Boys	2	6
11. Love Potion No. 9	2	6
12. Strangle Interlude	1	7

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 2 of 16 - as of 6/8/87)

1. Pendulum 9	7	1
2. Team 07	7	1
3. Team 04	6	2
4. Team 05	5	3
5. Team 10	4	4
6. Team 06	4	4
7. Wayne's Boys	3	5
8. Doggie Bowl	2	6
9. New Ballers	1	7
10. Rawhide	1	7

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 3 of 16 - as of 6/9/87)

1. D'Jets	11	1
2. Giraffe	9	4
3. Still Hoping	8	4
4. Twin Peaks	8	4
5. Kimo's Kows	8	4
6. Moby Dick Wailers	7	5
7. Summer Boy's	7	5
8. The Dinah Soars	6½	5½
9. CS Low Hangers	6	6
10. Angora Debs	6	6
11. Split Sisters	5	7
12. Lois Lanes	5	7
13. Stiff Competition	4½	7½
14. Madamettes	3	9
15. Bobby Pins	3	9
16. Team 16	0	12

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 1 of 16 - as of 6/11/87)

1. Team 04	4	0
2. Team 05	3	1
3. Pendulum Stars	3	1
4. Team 06	1	3
5. Gallen	1	3
6. Stallion	0	4
7. Team 07	0	0
8. Team 08	0	0

POOL

Back! A Win Away

by Lauren Ward

By defeating the Watering Hole Buffaloes 9-3 last week, the White Swallow's Back! came to within one step of the Spring '87 S.F. Pool Association City Championship. The match had not been played by press time, but it's likely that the Back! will represent San Francisco at West Coast Challenge XV in San Diego, July 10-12.

Back! anchor Colin Bradley, who was also WCC XIV's individuals champion, continues to be unbeatable with a 3-0 performance against the Buffaloes.

This may be the first City Championship in which no Division Champion was involved. The Back! was seeded 5th based on its regular season performance, and subsequently eliminated the Division I winner, Travelers High Life. Next the team overcame the first-seeded DeLuxe Ducks, the defending City Champions. The Buffaloes upset the number-two seeded Badlands Badasses, and then played a dramatic series

against the Eagle Creek Chaos II, number-three seeded, and the only team to have defeated the White Swallow this season. After losing the first match, the Buffaloes won the next two, both in 9-8 tiebreakers.

In the anti-climactic consolation match, the DeLuxe Ducks defeated the Eagle Creek Chaos II 9-4 to claim third place. It should prove refreshing to the league to finally have its City Champions lacking quacking.

While it's likely the Back! will represent S.F. at WCC XV as a team, it's assured that Back! members Walter Moreira, Rick Mariani, and Colin Bradley will play as individuals by virtue of their first, third, and fourth-place finishes at this season's All-Star Tournament. DeLuxe Duck and "Pool" column author Lauren Ward finished second, and will also warm an airline cushion on the southern sojourn.

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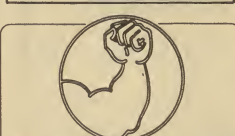
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Computer Matching

ComQuest™ Application for San Francisco/Sacramento

Form BAR06 Copyright ComQuest 1987

Step 1 - Mailing Address - Please print your name and mailing address below. This is only for our use in mailing you your matches and is kept confidential. All correspondence is mailed in plain envelopes.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ (optional)

I hereby affirm that I am at least 18 years of age and that I will hold neither ComQuest nor its owners liable for the behavior of the people I meet as a result of its service. (Your signature and date are required.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Steps 3, 4, and 5 (See instructions to the left of this application)

Step 2 - Contact Information - Please print the "contact information" below which will enable new applicants who get matched to you to contact you. You must include at least your first name and either a mailing address or phone number. You are limited to 125 letters, spaces, and punctuation. You may use some of the space to briefly describe yourself and your interests. If you do not wish for others to contact you, or if you live outside the areas covered by this application form, cross out this section.

Religious/Political Beliefs

Circle no me's where none apply.

me veto no ok yes Catholic
 me veto no ok yes Protestant
 me veto no ok yes Jewish
 me veto no ok yes New Age/Spiritual
 me veto no ok yes Very religious
 me veto no ok yes Agnostic/Atheist
 me veto no ok yes Conservative
 me veto no ok yes Liberal

Vices

me veto no ok yes Non smoker
 me veto no ok yes Light smoker
 me veto no ok yes Heavy smoker
 me veto no ok yes Not on light drinker
 me veto no ok yes Moderate drinker
 me veto no ok yes Occasional user
 me veto no ok yes Frequent user

Personality

me veto no ok yes Independent/confident
 me veto no ok yes Easy-going/ laid back
 me veto no ok yes Good sense of humor
 me veto no ok yes Shy/reserved/quiet
 me veto no ok yes Responsible/mature
 me veto no ok yes Youthful/carefree
 me veto no ok yes Cool/laid headed
 me veto no ok yes Warm/affectionate

Miscellaneous/Social Aspects

me veto no ok yes Very masculine
 me veto no ok yes Fairly masculine
 me veto no ok yes Somewhat feminine
 me veto no ok yes Very feminine
 me veto no ok yes Western
 me veto no ok yes Japanese/Asian
 me veto no ok yes Preppy/uniformed
 me veto no ok yes Leather

Age Range

You must indicate your age.

me veto no ok yes 18 to 20
 me veto no ok yes 21 to 24
 me veto no ok yes 25 to 29
 me veto no ok yes 30 to 34
 me veto no ok yes 35 to 39
 me veto no ok yes 40 to 49
 me veto no ok yes 50 to 59
 me veto no ok yes 60 or over

Height/Weight

me veto no ok yes Shorter than 5' 6"
 me veto no ok yes Between 5' 6" and 5' 9"
 me veto no ok yes Between 5' 9" and 5' 11"
 me veto no ok yes Taller than 5' 11"
 me veto no ok yes Less than 30" waist
 me veto no ok yes 30" to 33" waist
 me veto no ok yes 34" to 35" waist
 me veto no ok yes Over 35" waist

Race/Nationality/Hair Color

You must indicate your race.

me veto no ok yes Black
 me veto no ok yes Alien/Oriental
 me veto no ok yes Latino/Hispanic
 me veto no ok yes Caucasian (white)
 me veto no ok yes Black/brown/lebanon hair
 me veto no ok yes Blond or reddish hair
 me veto no ok yes Greying or white hair
 me veto no ok yes Balding

Facial/Body Hair

me veto no ok yes Smooth (rarely shave)
 me veto no ok yes Clean shaven
 me veto no ok yes Mustache
 me veto no ok yes Full beard
 me veto no ok yes Smooth (no body hair)
 me veto no ok yes Heavy leg, smooth chest
 me veto no ok yes Heavy chest, smooth back
 me veto no ok yes Very hairy (tummy area)

Body Build/General Attributes

me veto no ok yes Muscular/stocky
 me veto no ok yes Swimmer's build
 me veto no ok yes Average build
 me veto no ok yes Delicate/lean build
 me veto no ok yes Small to average size
 me veto no ok yes Circumcised (cup)
 me veto no ok yes Non-circumcised

Favorite Sedative Activities

me veto no ok yes Cuddling/embracing
 me veto no ok yes J/O (manual stimulation)
 me veto no ok yes French active (give BJ)
 me veto no ok yes French passive (get BJ)
 me veto no ok yes Greek active (anal top)
 me veto no ok yes Greek passive (bottom)
 me veto no ok yes Experimental/kinky
 me veto no ok yes Safe sex only

Send form with check or M.O. for \$20 (10 matches) or \$30 (20 matches) to:

P.O. Box 1069, Palatine, IL 60078
 Phone: (312) 991-0690 (24 hours)

"No matter who you are, there is someone for whom you are the perfect match."

OK, I'll Try It. How Do I Fill Out This Form?

This is the hard part. But it can be a lot of fun, too. It is very important to do it right. If you do not follow the instructions we cannot guarantee the results. **Carefully read the instructions below. Failure to follow them will result in poor matches.**

Questionnaire Instructions

Step 1. Enter your mailing address.

Step 2. Enter your contact information.

Step 3. Describe yourself by circling the word me, veto, no, ok, or yes beside each descriptive item which is a true descriptor of you.

Step 4. Describe your ideal match by circling the word veto, no, ok, or yes beside each and every item (including those by which you circle me) to indicate to what extent you would want that item to be true of your match. Circle exactly one of these responses per item, as follows:

Circle yes if you would like for that description to be true for your match. This is a vote for a trait - not a guarantee.

Circle ok if you don't care one way or the other. This is an abstention - no vote either way. Lines left blank count as ok.

Circle veto if you would not like for that description to be true for your match. This is a vote against - not a disqualification. Treat it as a "no."

Circle veto if you want to match with anyone for whom that description is true, even if they have other desirable qualities. This is a disqualification, and is not affected by category rank. Treat it as an absolute "no." We recommend that you circle between 10 and 20 vetoes to restrict age, race, residence, and other important traits of your matches.

Next: You are guaranteed the number of matches you order (10 or 20) minus the number of vetoes you circle over 20. For example, if you circle 23 vetoes, you are guaranteed a minimum of 7 matches (depending on whether you paid for 10 or 20 matches, respectively). You will receive one dollar of refundable credit per match less than the guaranteed number.

Step 5. Rank the categories. The questionnaire is divided into 18 categories. To ensure that your responses on less important items will not override your responses on the more important items, you must indicate which items are important to you. There are two ways. Using the blank to the left of each category heading, **either:**

Rank each category from 1 to 15 in its order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important and 15 as the least, using each rank once, or...

Put a check mark in the blank beside the **five** most important category headings, leaving the rest blank.

Next: Your matches will be based mostly upon the more important categories, with the less important ones serving only as tie breakers. **Male and female** have very little effect in the lower categories. Some of your matches may have traits by which you circled no. However, **vetoes** work the same regardless of category rank.

Example: Here is an example of how a hairy man with a mustache looking for a smooth partner with a mustache would fill out the form if he regarded "Facial/Body Hair" as his **third** most important category.

3. Facial/Body Hair

me veto no ok yes Smooth (rarely shave)
 me veto no ok yes Clean shaven
 me veto no ok yes Mustache
 me veto no ok yes Full beard
 me veto no ok yes Smooth (no body hair)
 me veto no ok yes Heavy leg, smooth chest
 me veto no ok yes Heavy chest, smooth back
 me veto no ok yes Very hairy (tummy area)

What's the Final Step?

When you have completed all the steps of the application, mail it with a check or money order for \$20 or \$30 (for 10 or 20 matches, respectively) to the address at the bottom of the form. Please allow 14 days to receive your order.

What is ComQuest?

ComQuest offers a different, interesting way for gay men to meet. Instead of meeting guys of unknown interest and lifestyle for the first time, you can find out if you really like each other before you meet. You can even exchange photos.

We aren't selective, so that you can be!

We welcome and can make satisfactory matches for men having a wide variety of tastes and lifestyles. Most of our members who are open to some kind of a long term relationship.

Here, we put ourselves on the line.

Introduction services like ComQuest are popping up all over the place in response to the increasing desire of health conscious guys men everywhere to find long term, meaningful, safe relationships. ComQuest pioneered in the field of gay matching in 1982 by providing:

- A complete and detailed questionnaire (128 descriptive items).
- Complete confidentiality (we don't mail letters).
- The ability to prevent, or "veto," matches having undesired traits.
- The ability to rank the importance of each group of traits in comparing your matches.
- Matches only with those living in your local (or preferred) area.
- A large selection of gay men from each region.
- Affordable cost (fees range from \$20 to \$30).
- A money-back guarantee of satisfaction.
- A guaranteed number of matches.
- A guaranteed return response time.

Here's a great idea for travelers!

Make friends at your destination before you leave. We now cover the following cities: New York, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Dallas, Ft. Lauderdale, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. If you would like to meet compatible guys from your destination, call us and ask for the appropriate city. Our number is 312/991-0690. Please specify your city of interest.

How Does It Work?

Take a look at the questionnaire and you will see just how specific you can be. When you can meet and the types of relationships you can specify.

ComQuest's matching system, using a high speed computer, analyzes your detailed questionnaire responses and compares each of your weighted "ideal match" descriptive responses with the corresponding "self" descriptive responses of all current members, and vice versa, keeping track of the members having the highest matching scores.

What Does It Cost, And What Do I Get?

This is the best part. For only \$20 or \$30 you get the contact information for the 10 or 20 people who are your best matches. You get a four-month membership, during which our new and interesting members may be matched to you and receive your contact information on their lists (if you choose to be "listed," that is). You will know of these matches only when they contact you.

You may order additional sets of matches (\$10), make changes in your application (for \$5 or \$10), or both (\$15), and cancel during your membership. Additional membership fees for other areas are \$15 per pool.

How Can I Be Sure I'll Get My Money's Worth?

ComQuest has received testimonials each week from members who have found exactly what they were looking for. We are pleased with our service. The names of 20 compatible guys cost less than a typical night on the town. However, if you are not satisfied, you will receive a prompt refund of your membership fee!

How Long Will It Take?

Our goal is a one-week turnaround. If the difference between your payment date and ours is more than 14 days, we will include an extra \$5.00 credit voucher with your order, applicable to future ComQuest orders. All correspondence from ComQuest will be mailed in plain envelopes.

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